A WARREN MAGAZINE

EERIE #83

$1.25 56320-6

THE ROOK IN "DAY BEFORE TOMORROW!"

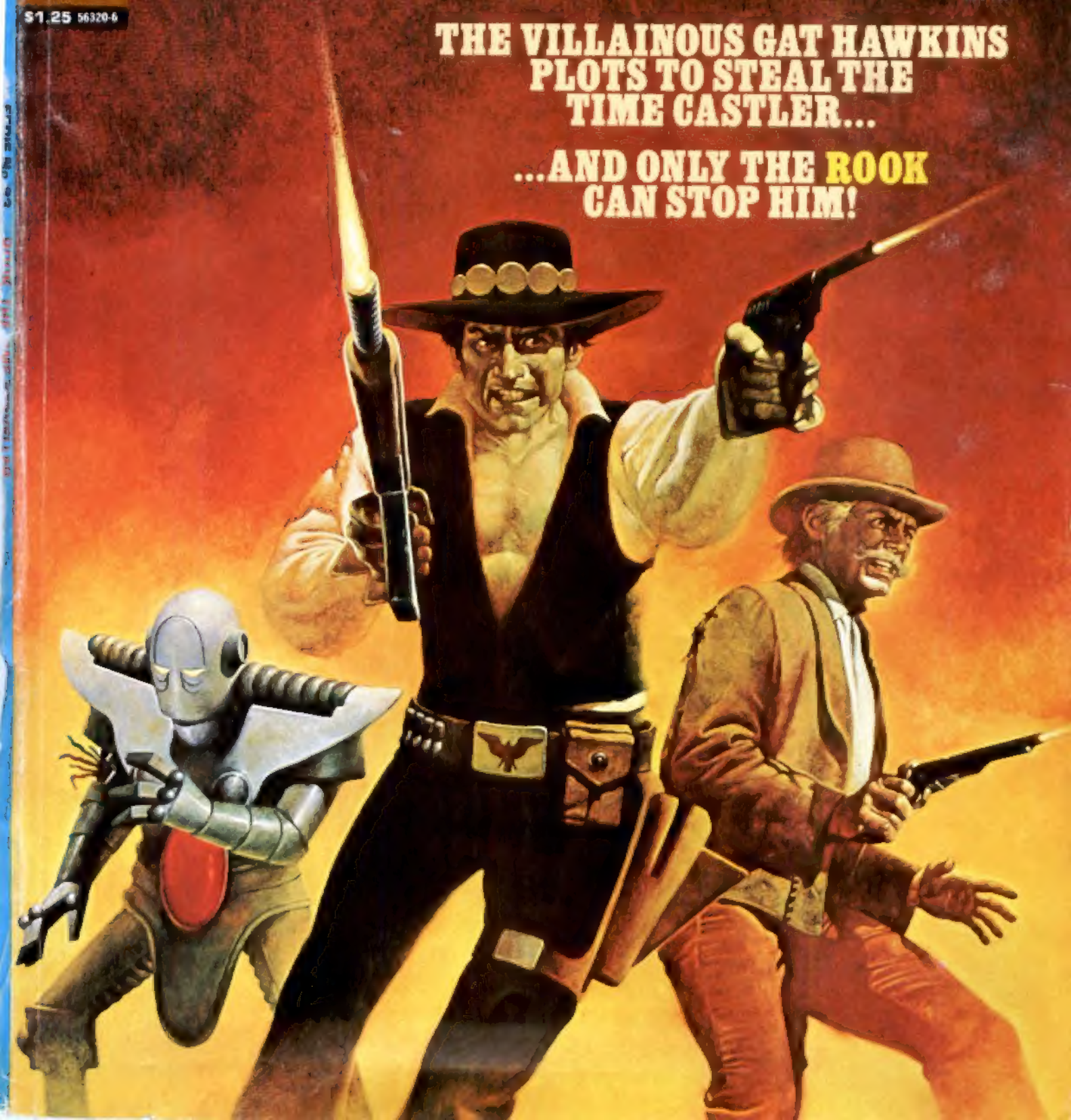
EERIE

PDC

MAY 1977

THE VILLAINOUS GAT HAWKINS PLOTS TO STEAL THE TIME CASTLER...

...AND ONLY THE ROOK CAN STOP HIM!



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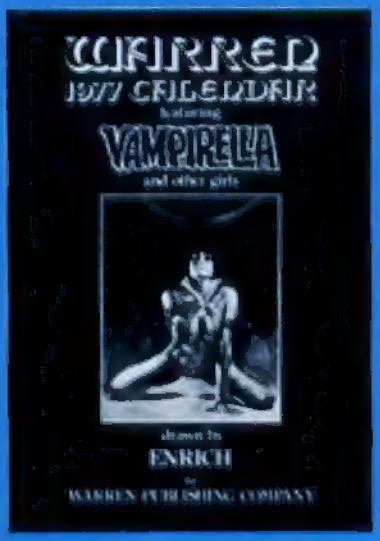

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EERIE®

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ISSUE No. 83
MAY 1977

4 **DEAR COUSIN EERIE** Letters this issue center on EERIE #81, the spectacular "ape" issue. The fantastic Frazetta cover drew raves. "Bride of Congo . . ." drew controversy. Some readers were glad the ape got the girl. Others said she wasn't worth it.

5 **The ROOK™**
DAY BEFORE TOMORROW Gat Hawkins, an Alamo deserter, had become a secret passenger aboard Rook's time travel machine. Now the killer wanted it and murder was a small price for the wonderous device. The total cost was forfeiture of the future!

25 **BRANCATELLI: COMIC BOOKS** Brancatelli predicts certain major changes in comics in 1977. Keep your eyes on: Goodwin, Horn, Crumb, Seuling, Ross, Kahn. If changes are coming these are the people to watch. And if you're wondering why, read Brancatelli!

26 **HARD JOHN: KS. BOMBER** Good ole Hard John Apple had quite a time tryin' to keep himself alive in post Holy-Cost Kansas. The Catlicks had him on their most wanted list. Now the Prots learned John had Nukes and was mad enough to use them!

36 **GAFFER: TEMPTATION** Old man Gaff had fooled with carny tricks for most of his life and he figured that he knew them all. When the Devil himself offered him a chance at some real high stakes gambling Gaff agreed. His soul? The stakes were higher!

37 **PRESTO THE BESTO** Like his name, Presto was the finest escape artist in the business. More than just a magician, he was the man who could not be killed. Not in the bottom of a mine shaft, nor in the belly of a whale. Presto always came back, right?

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Dear Cousin Eerie...

On Sunday, after seeing the updated **King Kong**, I became fed-up with the whole ape-scene. On Monday I received EERIE #81 and, even though I still won't recommend the movie, I'll sure as heck tell all my friends about issue #81!

Maybe other companies will go out of business due to a lack of ideas, but this will never happen to **Warren!** With just one cover painting as inspiration, **Warren** writers and artists created seven fantastic stories. If that ain't **genius** I don't know what is!

"Good-Bye, Bambi Boone" was a classic story where, instead of Beauty killing the Beast, an obese agent killed Beauty (heh heh).

"Taking of Queen Bovine" was an interesting spy saga... but it was slightly flawed. The villainous **Tobac** appears to be wearing a **general's** uniform from the "Planet of the Apes" films. I know that Dahmen was a planet of Simian's, but whoever heard of an assassin-General. And, if the uniform was a disguise, it should have been stated.

"Bride of Congo" was a very humorous story! I was delighted that, in this version at least, the ape lived and got the girl in the end.

"You're A Big Girl Now" reminded me of "The Amazing Colossal Man," but the plot was very interesting. That the astronauts were aliens was expected... but the fact that they landed on **Rachel**... a **Rachel** clutching the Statue of Liberty... was a real surprise ending!

I figured out the conclusions of both "Star Child" and "The Giant Ape Suit" in advance but I enjoyed both anyhow.

"Golden Girl" was my favorite! I guess having my own miniature city (an HO Scale model railroad) made me slightly prejudiced in favoring the story. It's too bad **Nick Cuti** didn't have a miniature **Goldfinger** in the background supervising the guilding of **Shirl**... after all **Goldfinger** was an expert at that sort of thing!

EDWARD JOHN WOJCIK
Detroit, Mich.

Let me be the first to admit that, generally speaking, I haven't been too much of an EERIE fan. I've usually considered it the least interesting of the **Warren** magazines. I have to say, though, that there are issues when the magazine actually rises above my expectations. This EERIE #81 was one of these issues!

I wish to congratulate you on EERIE #81.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

Bruce Jones and **Rich Corben** have again produced an extraordinary piece of work. **Mr. Jones** somehow, ingeniously even, was able to create a story using the elements of science fiction to convey a message about the need we all have for love.

GAIL FLATLO
Santa Fe, N.M.

The EERIE #81 special issue was one of the most fantastic, interesting, thrilling magazines I've ever read! The cover was superb!

"Goodbye, Bambi Boone" looked great! **Cary Bates** wrote a super story and **Carmine Infantino** and **Dick Giordano's** art was fine.

"The Taking of Queen Bovine" seemed very action packed... a change from **Gerry's** usual style and I enjoyed it.

"Bride of Congo" started out wierdly scary, but later became romantic... **too** romantic. **Rich Corben's** art in "You're A Big Girl Now" was excellent. "Starchild" and "Golden Girl" were good also.

There were just too many **giants** in this issue! I think **Warren** shouldn't do a magazine on one subject any more.

CHRISTOPHER HLAVATOORE
North Tarrytown, N.Y.

EERIE #81 with its seven stories based on one cover, was a brilliant concept.

Frank Frazetta's never-before-published painting was outstanding... terrific!

The best treat of the issue, though, was **Rich Corben's** "You're A Big Girl Now." His style is top notch! His work, when it appears in CREEPY or EERIE is the highlight of the issue. So why don't we see more of him in VAMPIRELLA?

Ramon Torrents seems to have done some work for EERIE for a change. It's a pleasure to see his work wherever it appears.

"Starchild" was also enjoyable. An appearance by **Ortiz** is something to look forward to, and he outdid himself in "Starchild!"

Carmine Infantino's art has improved... seemingly overnight! I especially like his team-up with **Dick Giordano.**

I can't say much about **Joe Brancatelli's** column. Not everyone... perhaps not even the majority of **Warren** readers... cares what's happening in the comics industry. **Brancatelli** has made some interesting points, I suppose, but to be truthful, his column bores me.

STEVE SCHULMAN
Ontario, Canada

The **Frank Frazetta** cover on EERIE #81 was fabulous! The contents of the book were pretty good also!

"The Bride of Congo" was fun, as was "You're A Big Girl Now!"

"Goodbye, Bambi Boone" with its plaintive nobody-takes-a-pretty-actress-seriously theme was even better. I found it most enjoyable!

JAMES HOUSTON
Bronx, N.Y.

I just received EERIE #81 in the mail.

Frank Frazetta's cover was spectacular! It was a pleasure to see a cover by an artist other than **Enrich, Ken Kelly** or **Sanjulian** for a change.

Unfortunately, the promise made by the cover was not entirely honored by the rest of the issue, as the stories ranged from intollerably bad to excellent.

"Goodbye, Bambi Boone" was horrible. **Cary Bates'** basic plot was good but was ruined by too much snappy-patter and insipid attempts at humor. The art, which was only fair, didn't help much either.

Joe Brancatelli's column provided **some** food for thought and was more interesting than usual, but I would prefer the return of the two page letters column.

"Taking of Queen Bovine" was a borderline story, improved by **Ramon Torrents** exquisite art. The plot was simply too frivolous compared with many of the stories that appeared in this issue.

Even **Gonzalo Mayo's** great art couldn't save "The Bride of Congo." The story was stupid and corny. **Bill DuBay** must have written this one in his sleep! **Dube** is usually a good writer and can certainly do better than this.

"You're A Big Girl Now" was fantastic! **Bruce Jones** has mastered the art of pathos and drama and **Rich Corben** had the artistic skill to lend this story an atmosphere of gut-level realism. The combination made reading "... Big Girl Now" an emotional experience. The ending was beautiful!

"Starchild" was a good (though minor) effort, but I enjoyed all five pages of this mini-story.

Roger McKenzie's "The Giant Ape Suit" had everything "The Bride of Congo" lacked... real humor and good plot. And the art was excellent.

"Golden Girl" was another good story. It was not great literature but it **was** interesting and entertaining.

Very much like EERIE #81 ... an interesting, entertaining... though uneven issue!

SAMMY JONES
Brandon, Miss.

EERIE #81 was a total surprise! A whole issue devoted to an inversion of the **King Kong** mythos, sparked, no doubt, by an Italian producer's latest cinema exploit.

Never since CREEPY #64 has an entire **Warren** magazine been based on a single cover and there couldn't have been a better one in an unpublished painting by the great illustrator, **Frank Frazetta.**

Rich Corben was back in full-color, creating "You're A Big Girl Now"... a phenomenal masterpiece! I'm looking forward to the conclusion of **Corben/Jones** "Time Trilogy" when the EERIE magazines resume their regular series format.

Gonzalo Mayo's inks over **Carmine Infantino's** pencils in "Bride of Congo" was an interesting experiment that worked, but I certainly hope that **Mayo** will continue his "Tombspawn" series next month.

"Giant Ape Suit" and "Golden Girl" were fine examples of the work of the artists and writers involved!

"The Taking of Queen Bovine" was the best story in the issue and certainly the most off-beat!

STEPHEN PIROS
Edison, N.J.

Tombspawn will continue, Stephen, but will be absent a few issues while Gonzalo works on his book length VAMPIRELLA epic, due out this summer. The conclusion to the time travel trilogy will also appear this summer in EERIE #87.

Wow! Thanks for the **Frank Frazetta** cover on EERIE #81. It's the first **Frazetta** art appearing on EERIE since #23.

As usual the stories varied widely in quality. "Goodbye, Bambi Boone," "Taking of Queen Bovine" and "Golden Girl" were not as well thought out as they might have been.

Only **Bruce Jones'** "You're A Big Girl Now!" and "The Giant Ape Suit" by **Roger McKenzie** were stories of workable imaginative fantasy!

Jose Ortiz' talent as a graphic storyteller almost made words unnecessary in "Starchild."

Rich Corben's color art was, as expected, superb!

GARY KIMBER
Scarborough, Ontario

DEAR COUSIN EERIE
c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

THE *ROOK*. A SECRETIVE, SINGULAR MAN. A MYSTERIOUS LEGEND. AN ADVENTURER IN TIME.

A MAN FOR ALL CENTURIES. SPINNING AN AWESOME MYTH BETWEEN THE TICKS OF THE CLOCK. HIS STORY BEGAN *HERE*. THE TIME, 1836. THE PLACE, THE COTTONWOOD... SOON TO BE INFAMOUS AS... *EL ALAMO!*

The ROOK™

THE DAY BEFORE TOMORROW

STORY: BUDD LEWIS / ART: LUIS BERMEJO

TIRED OF WAITIN' ON THE NEXT CHARGE, EH BOYS? FEEL LIKE STIRRING THEM CRAZY MESKINS UP A BIT? FOOLS!
BDOOM!
YOU'RE JUST HOPING TO TRAP ME BETWEEN YOUR GUNS AND SANTA ANNA'S KILLERS!
BUT IT WON'T NEVER HAPPEN!
YOU DONE STIRRED 'EM UP... BUT I'M GETTIN' DOWN IN THAT CREEK BED AND PULL IN THE COVERS OVER MY HEAD!
BDOOM!
WHOMP!
WHOOEE! MADE IT BY THE SKIN OF MY SWEET RUMP!
BEEWEEE!
KACHOW!
BADOW!

MY GOD! IT'S A TASTE OF ARMAGEDDON!
WHUMP!
BDOOM!
BAMMP!

B-BUT... WHAT'S THAT...?
I...I'M HAVING A DREAM IN THE MIDDLE OF A NIGHT-MARE!

INCREDIBLE! THAT...THAT THING LOOKS LIKE A ROOK! A CHESSPIECE!
AN'...AN' SOME-ONE'S COMING OUT OF IT!?
BDAM! BDOM!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE, THAT CHESSPIECE IS A MACHINE! IT BROUGHT THAT FELLA INTO THIS CRAZY BLOODBATH... AND IT JUST MIGHT GET ME OUT OF IT!
PTING!
ZING!

WHUMPP!
OH GOD--
NYAHHH!

UHH! EXPLOSION... NEAR KILLED ME! SO... SO... WEAK... HEAD POUNDING!

IT...IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL OVER! EVERYONE... EVERYONE'S DEAD EXCEPT... SOMEONE...SOMEONE THERE!
THEY'RE GONG TOWARDS THE ROOKPIECE! MUST STOP THEM...IT'S MINE...MINE! I'LL KILL FOR IT!-

NOOO! IT'S MY MACHINE!! UGHN!

TZZZK!
TH...THIEF...! MY MACHINE... DON'T...DON'T! UGHN!

TIME SPINS ROUND AND ROUND... AND THE MAN...GAT HAWKIN... FINDS HIMSELF FALLING...FALLING...THROUGH AN ENDLESS LIMBO!

AND AS SUDDENLY AS IT STARTED ...THE MOTIONS COMES TO AN ABRUPT STOP!

-UGHN!- IT...IT WAS A... NIGHTMARE!

HEAD...HEAD'S STILL SPINNING, THROBBING!

S-SOMEONE'S COMING OUT OF THE MACHINE...GOT... GOT TO GET MY HEAD ABOUT ME! HIDE! WEAK...GROGGY!

ITS OVER. THE ALAMO IS HISTORY NOW. YESTERDAY.

HISTORY? WHAT...?

ITS HIM! THE ROOK RIDER! HE CAME BACK! GOD, STILL SO GROGGY! CAN BARELY SEE HIM! AND...AND A BOY! THAT KNIFE! THAT'S COL. BOWIE'S KNIFE!

THEN...THEN THE ALAMO'S FALLEN FOR SURE! THEY'RE ALL DEAD! THAT'D BE THE ONLY WAY TO GET THAT BIG KNIFE AWAY FROM BOWIE! THEN...

...IT'S TOMORROW! IT WAS TODAY...I MEAN YESTERDAY JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO! DAMNIT! IF I COULD JUST CLEAR MY MIND I COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
OH MY GOD! THAT...THAT ROOK RIDER...HE...HE'S A WIZARD! AN ENGINEER! THIS MACHINE...THIS ROOK...IT'S A ...TIME MACHINE!
AND...AND HE'S LEAVING IN IT!

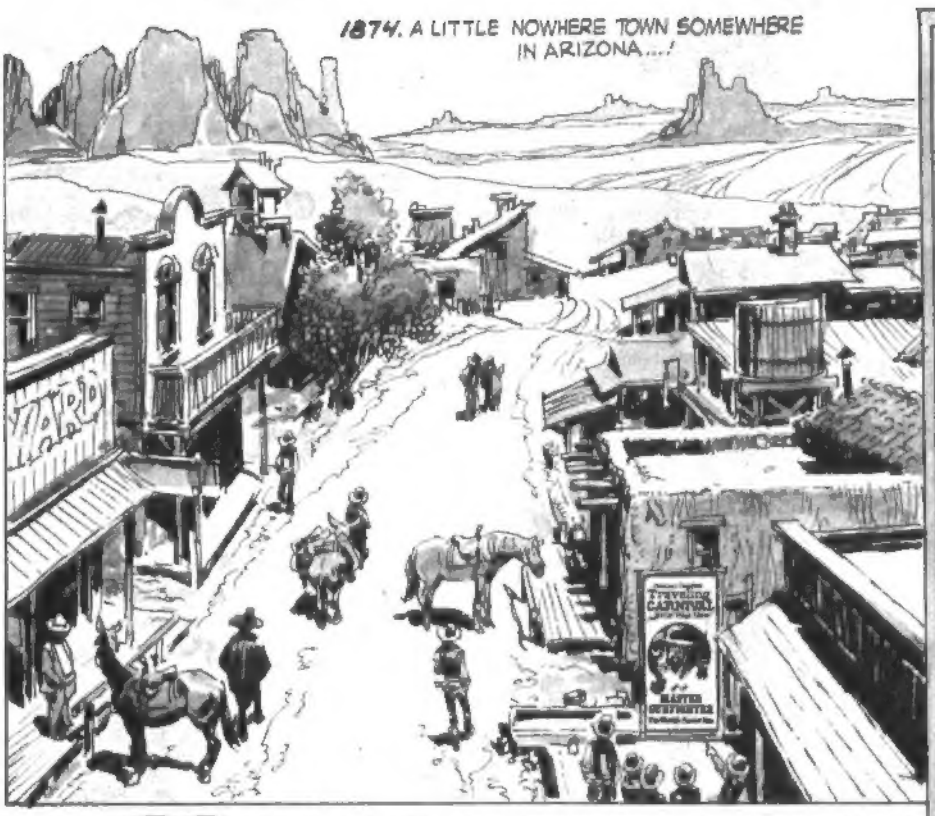
NO! NO! DON'T LEAVE, ROOK MAN! DON'T LEAVE ME!

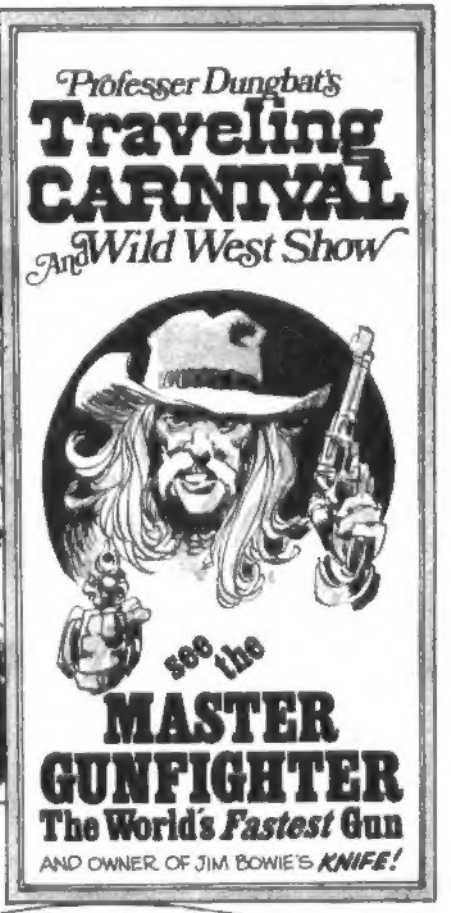
DONT--! UHHH!

AGAIN...METAL CARESSES METAL! GAT HAWKIN'S WRIST BAND TOUCHES THE HULL OF THE TIME MACHINE AND SPARKS GLISTEN AND FLY...
...AND AGAIN...THE SOLE DESERTER OF A DYING FORT IS PULLED THROUGH TIME!

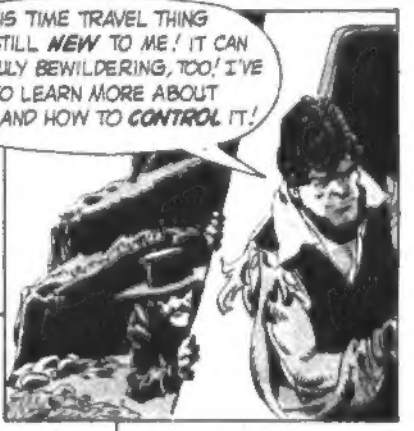
I...I'M A FAILURE! WITH ALL MY MODERN WEAPONRY AND GADGETS... I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE MY OWN ANCESTOR AT THE ALAMO! OH GOD! SO WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW?*
T-THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TRY AGAIN! I COULD NEVER CAPTURE THAT ONE SEGMENT OF TIME! IT'S LOST TO ME FOR ALL ETERNITY!
*SEE LAST ISSUE: "THE MAN WHO TIME FORGOT!"

AND YET...I STILL EXIST! I'M HERE! SO THERE MUST BE ANOTHER LINK BETWEEN ME AND THE PAST! PARRISH DANE DIED AT THE ALAMO! BUT BEFORE HE DIED...HE MUST HAVE LEFT A SON...OR I COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN HIS DESCENDANT!
OH DAMN! NOW WHAT'S THIS? THE TIME MACHINE IS SHORT CIRCUITING! BUT...BUT WHY??
THIS WHOLE THING IS TURNIN' OUT TO BE A BUST! I GOT TO PUT DOWN IN SOME-WHEN FOR REPAIRS! THOSE HIGH TEMPERED MESKINS MUST'VE SHOT MY MACHINE TO HELL!


1874. A LITTLE NOWHERE TOWN SOMEWHERE IN ARIZONA...!
HOTEL
Professor Dungbat's Traveling CARNIVAL
MASTER GUNFIGHTER


Professor Dungbat's
Traveling CARNIVAL
And Wild West Show
see the
MASTER GUNFIGHTER
The World's Fastest Gun
AND OWNER OF JIM BOWIE'S KNIFE!

AH, I'VE LATCHED ON TO A TIME FRAGMENT. SEVERAL HOURS LONG, TOO!
TIME ENOUGH FOR ME TO MAKE MY REPAIRS AND GET OUT OF HERE.


THIS TIME TRAVEL THING IS STILL NEW TO ME! IT CAN BE TRULY BEWILDERING, TOO! I'VE GOT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TIME AND HOW TO CONTROL IT!

BET I'M THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT THE EXISTANCE OF TIME FRAGMENTS. AND CERTAINLY THAT'S THE ONLY MACHINE EVER BUILT TO USE THEM!
THE THING THAT FRIGHTENS ME, THOUGH, IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ME AND THE TIME CASTLER WHEN WE GET CAUGHT IN A TIME ZONE AND THE FRAGMENT ENDS... WHEN TIME LITERALLY RUNS OUT?

IF THE TIME FRAGMENT CEASES TO EXIST AND I'M STILL IN IT... WILL I BE TRAPPED IN ... NOWHEN? IT'S A CHILLING THOUGHT!
I'VE STILL GOT SO MUCH TO LEARN! AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES...OR IT'LL BE THE END OF RESTIN DANE!

THE WAY THE CASTLER IS RUNNING AFTER BEING SHOT UP LIKE THAT COULD PROVE MY UNDOING, TOO!
GOT TO SCROUNGE AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO PIECE THIS CIRCUITRY BACK TOGETHER...SO I CAN GET BACK TO 1977!
EH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND? LIKE --?

HEY! YOU! GET AWAY FROM THERE!

GAWK! GWAK!
A RAVEN! HA! WHAT RE YOU DOING PECK NG AROUND N THERE? LOOK NG FOR A ROOST?
RAVENS ARE ALSO CALLED ROOKS, AREN'T THEY? A ROOK LOOKING FOR A ROOKERY INSIDE A ROOK? WERDER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED I SUPPOSE.

HEY BIRD DO ME A FAVOR AND DON'T LEAVE ME ANY SURPRISES ON THAT INSTRUMENT PANEL. I'M HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE MAKING THIS RIG WORK WITH OUT BIRD DROPPINGS GUNKING UP THE WORKS

HEY!
TOINGGGG!

YOU THIEVIN' DEVIL PUT THAT BACK! YOU'RE STEALING VITAL CIRCUITRY WIRE THERE. I CAN'T GET THIS MACHINE TIME BORNE WITHOUT THAT WIRE. GIMME IT!
GAWK!

DAMN CRAZY CROW COME BACK HERE.

SHEEE--!

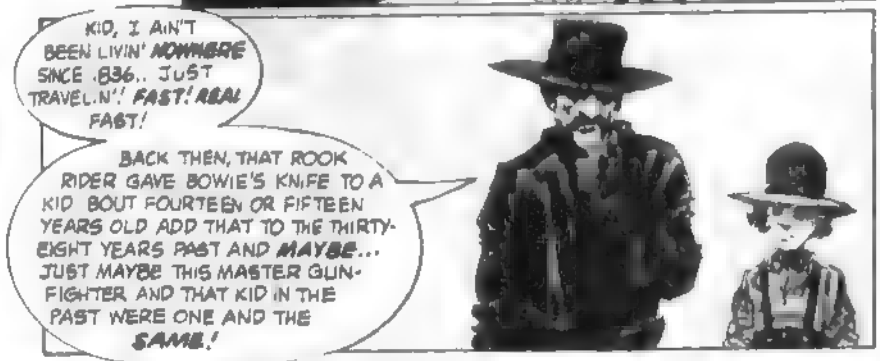
SO THIS IS A MASTER GUNFIGHTER! AN HE'S COMIN' TO TOWN WITH THE ORIGINAL BOWIE KNIFE!
MASTER GUNFIGHTER
NOW WHERE WAS THE LAST SEEN THAT KNIFE?

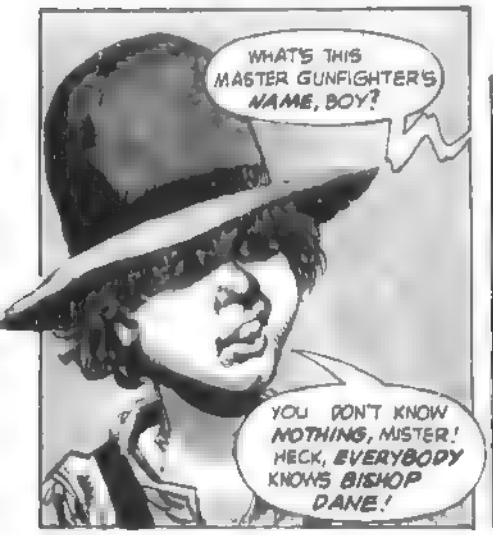
DAMN! WITHOUT THAT WIRE I'LL BE STRANDED IN THIS TIME ZONE..
...IF I'M STILL HERE WHEN THIS 1874 TIME FRAGMENT RUNS OUT!
COME BACK HERE, YOU BLASTED BIRD!

GOTTA FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS MASTER GUNFIGHTER!
HEY, YOU! KID! COMERE!

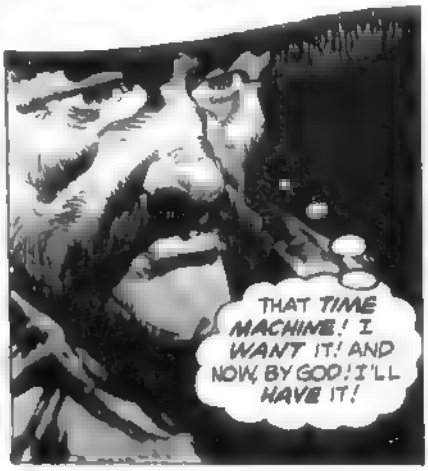
YOU EVER HEARD OF THIS...MASTER GUN-FIGHTER? THIS GUY WITH JIM BOWIE'S KNIFE?
Y-YESSIR...I HEARD OF HIM! E-EVER'BODY'S HEARD OF THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER! HE USETA BE TOP GUN IN THESE PARTS! BIGGER EVEN THAN WYATT EARP OR BILLY TH' KID!

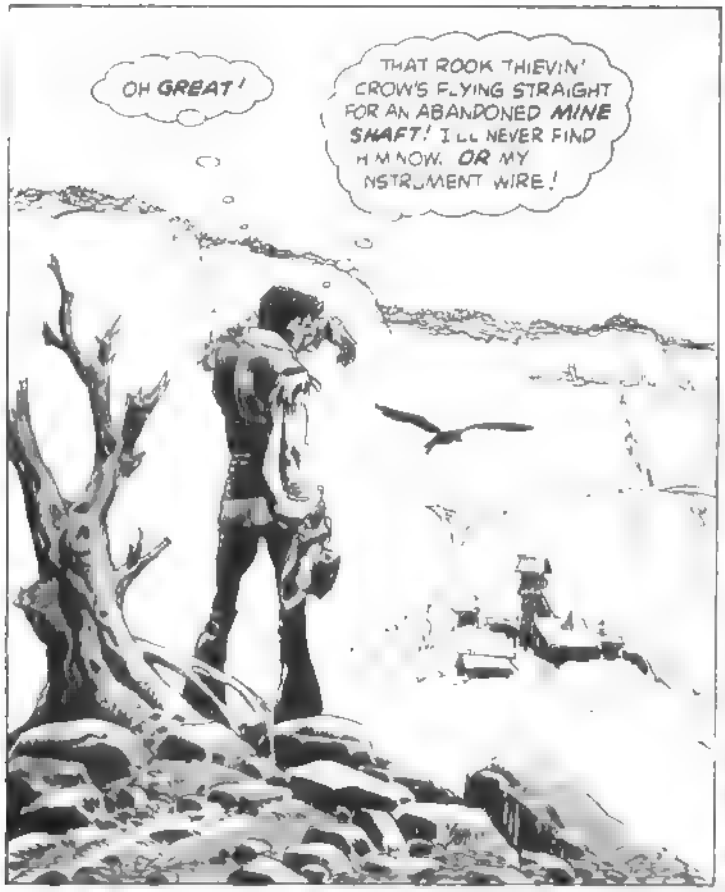
NAW! IT...IT JUST CAN'T BE!
SAY, KID...WHAT YEAR IS THIS ANYWAY?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW? IT'S 1874, MISTER! WHERE YOU BEEN LIVIN'? UNDER A ROCK?


KID, I AIN'T BEEN LIVIN' NOWHERE SINCE 1836.. JUST TRAVEL'N'! FAST! REAL FAST!
BACK THEN, THAT ROOK RIDER GAVE BOWIE'S KNIFE TO A KID BOUT FOURTEEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS OLD ADD THAT TO THE THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS PAST AND MAYBE... JUST MAYBE THIS MASTER GUN-FIGHTER AND THAT KID IN THE PAST WERE ONE AND THE SAME!

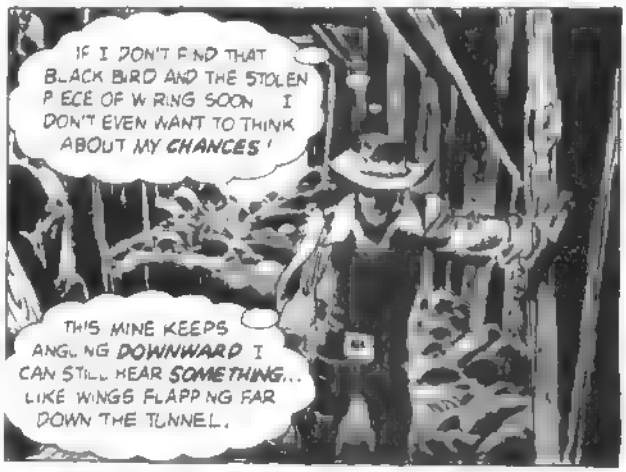

WHAT'S THIS MASTER GUNFIGHTER'S NAME, BOY?
YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHING, MISTER! HECK, EVERYBODY KNOWS BISHOP DANE!

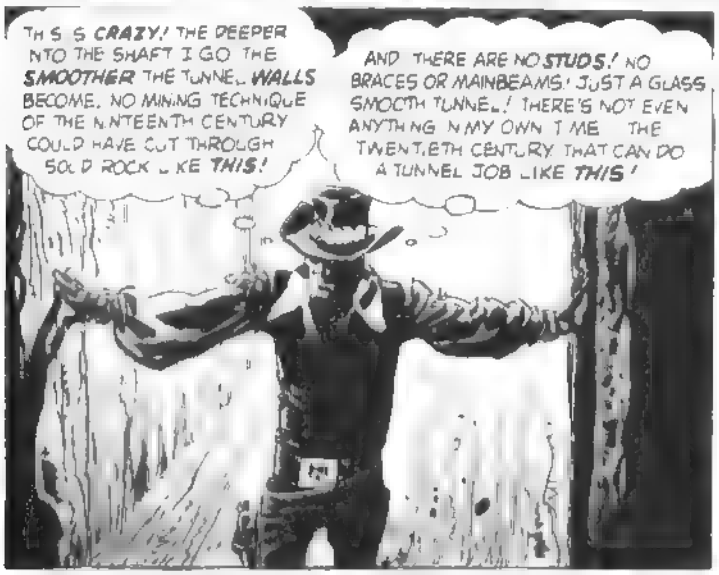
...I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES... IF I DO, IT'S THE END OF RESTIN DANE!
RESTIN DANE! BISHOP DANE! BY GOD! THAT ROOK MAN CAME BACK IN TIME TO SAVE HIS OWN ANCESTOR'S LIFE!

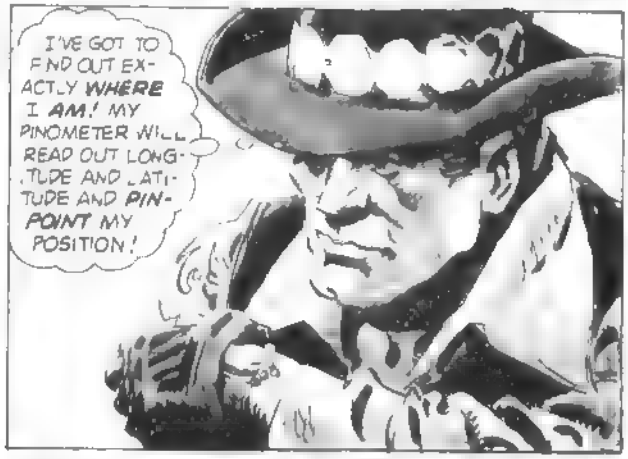

THAT TIME MACHINE! I WANT IT! AND NOW, BY GOD! I'LL HAVE IT!

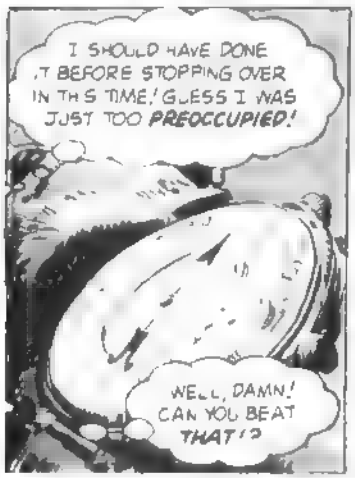

OH GREAT!
THAT ROOK THIEVIN' CROW'S FLYING STRAIGHT FOR AN ABANDONED MINE SHAFT! I'LL NEVER FIND HIM NOW. OR MY INSTRUMENT WIRE!

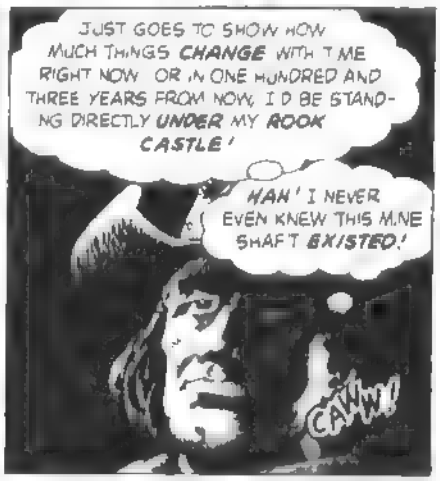
CAN'T SEE A THING! IT'S BLACKER THAN MY LAWYER'S HEART. WHERE BUT I CAN STILL HEAR! AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT BIRD'S GOING DEEP INTO THIS SHAFT!


IF I DON'T FIND THAT BLACK BIRD AND THE STOLEN PIECE OF WIRING SOON I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT MY CHANCES!
THIS MINE KEEPS ANGLING DOWNWARD. I CAN STILL HEAR SOMETHING... LIKE WINGS FLAPPING FAR DOWN THE TUNNEL.


THIS IS CRAZY! THE DEEPER INTO THE SHAFT I GO THE SMOOTHER THE TUNNEL WALLS BECOME. NO MINING TECHNIQUE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY COULD HAVE CUT THROUGH SOLID ROCK LIKE THIS!
AND THERE ARE NO STUDS! NO BRACES OR MAINBEAMS! JUST A GLASS SMOOTH TUNNEL! THERE'S NOT EVEN ANYTHING IN MY OWN TIME. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY THAT CAN DO A TUNNEL JOB LIKE THIS!

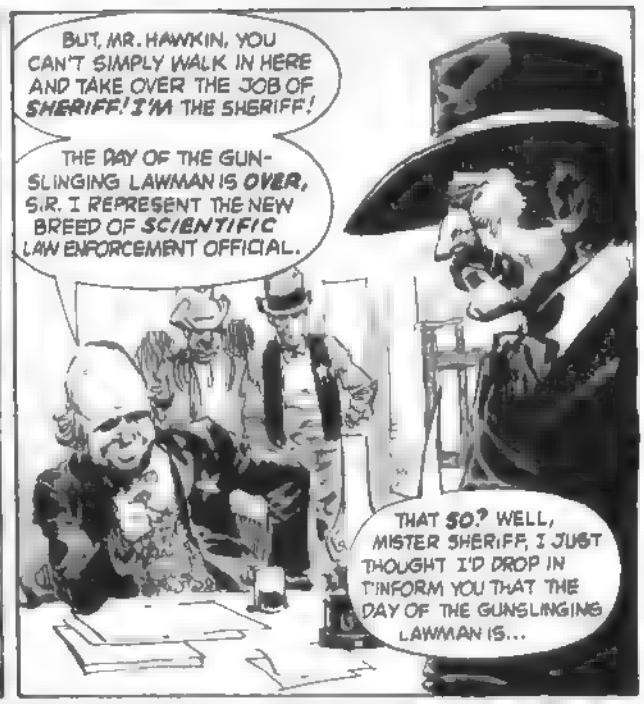

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE I AM! MY PINOMETER WILL READ OUT LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE AND PINPOINT MY POSITION!

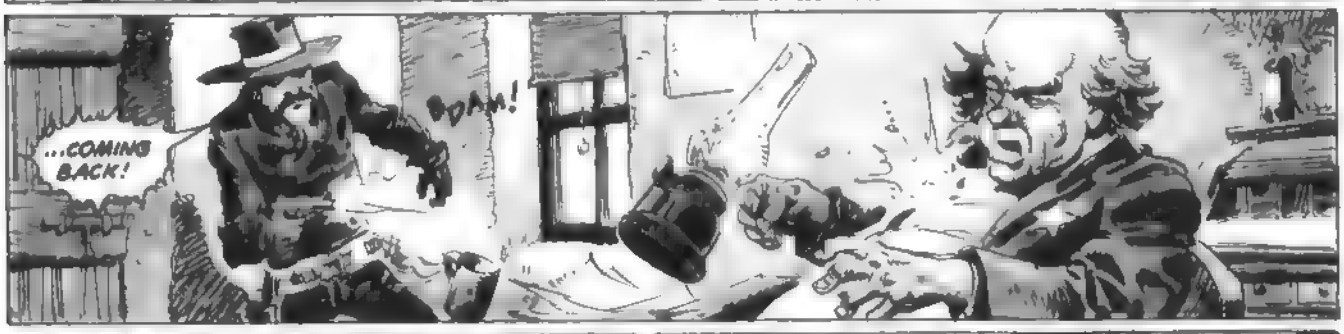

I SHOULD HAVE DONE IT BEFORE STOPPING OVER IN THIS TIME! GUESS I WAS JUST TOO PREOCCUPIED!
WELL, DAMN! CAN YOU BEAT THAT!?

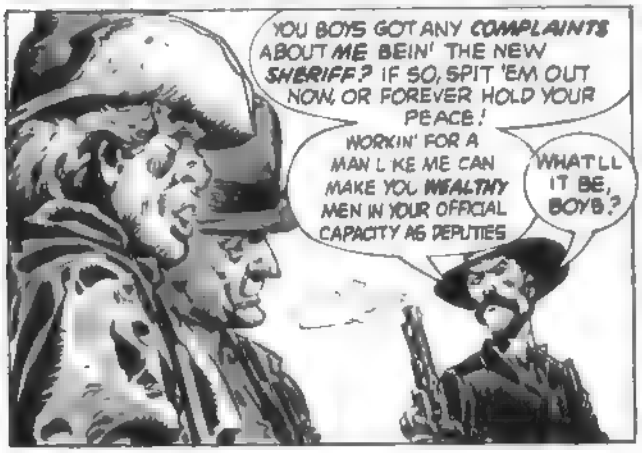

JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW MUCH THINGS CHANGE WITH TIME. RIGHT NOW OR IN ONE HUNDRED AND THREE YEARS FROM NOW, I'D BE STANDING DIRECTLY UNDER MY ROOK CASTLE!
HAH! I NEVER EVEN KNEW THIS MINE SHAFT EXISTED!
CAWW!

OHOH! ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT BIRD WITH MY INSTRUMENT WIRE! IF I DON'T CATCH HIM SOON, THE ROOK CASTLE WILL NEVER BE BUILT A CENTURY FROM NOW!

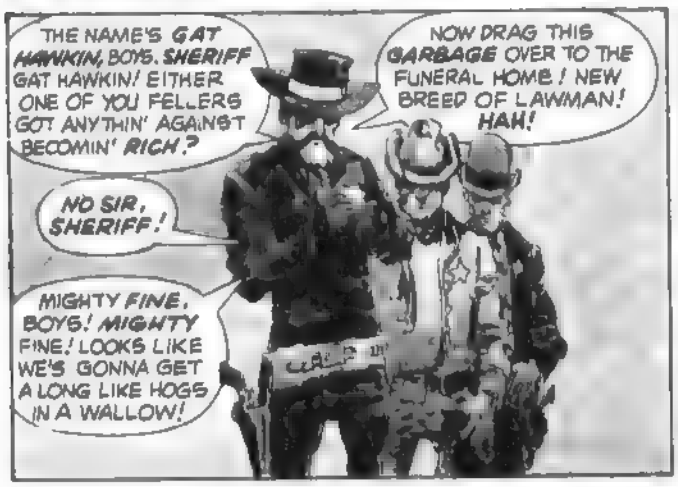
NOW TO PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO THE LOCAL LAW OFFICE...AND APPLY FOR A JOB!
SHERIFF

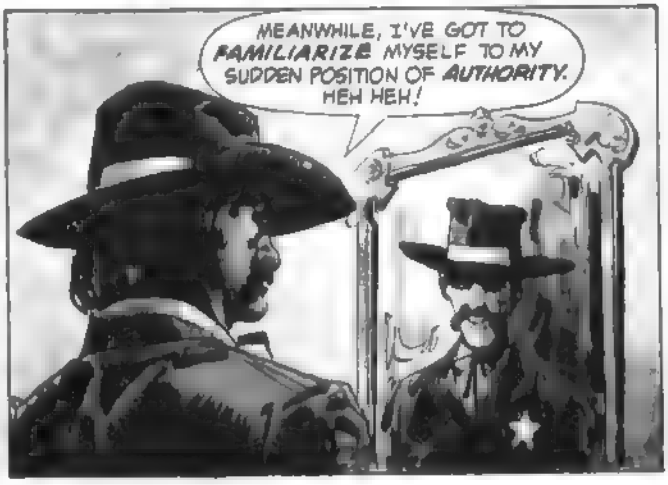

BUT, MR. HAWKIN, YOU CAN'T SIMPLY WALK IN HERE AND TAKE OVER THE JOB OF SHERIFF! I'M THE SHERIFF!
THE DAY OF THE GUN-SLINGING LAWMAN IS OVER, SIR. I REPRESENT THE NEW BREED OF SCIENTIFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.
THAT SO? WELL, MISTER SHERIFF, I JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP IN T'INFORM YOU THAT THE DAY OF THE GUNSLINGING LAWMAN IS...


...COMING BACK!
BAM!


YOU BOYS GOT ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT ME BEIN' THE NEW SHERIFF? IF SO, SPIT 'EM OUT NOW, OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE!
WORKIN' FOR A MAN LIKE ME CAN MAKE YOU WEALTHY MEN IN YOUR OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS DEPUTIES
WHAT'LL IT BE, BOYS?

WHAT DO YA THINK, JOHN CANE? LOOKS LIKE A RIGHT FINE MAN FOR SHERIFFIN' TO ME.
BILLY TOM, I THINK WE JUST GOT OURSELVES A NEW BOSS! A BOSSMAN AFTER OUR OWN HEARTS, YUH MIGHT SAY.


THE NAME'S GAT HAWKIN, BOYS. SHERIFF GAT HAWKIN! EITHER ONE OF YOU FELLERS GOT ANYTHIN' AGAINST BECOMIN' RICH?
NOW DRAG THIS GARBAGE OVER TO THE FUNERAL HOME! NEW BREED OF LAWMAN! HAH!
NO SIR, SHERIFF!
MIGHTY FINE, BOYS! MIGHTY FINE! LOOKS LIKE WE'S GONNA GET A LONG LIKE HOGS IN A WALLOW!


MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF TO MY SUDDEN POSITION OF AUTHORITY. HEH HEH!

WHAT WAS THAT? SOMETHING MOVED IN THE DARK JUST AHEAD!
ANOTHER SOUND. LIKE LIKE A MUFFLED VOICE!

GONNA NEED SOME LIGHT A SOLAR DISC FROM MY HAT BAND SHOULD PROVIDE ENOUGH. EVEN DOWN HERE.

AH LIGHT!

THERE THE MUFFLED VOICE AGAIN. COMING FROM DIRECTLY AHEAD! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AND SEE WHO, BESIDES ME AND THE BLACK BIRD, IS IN THIS HOLE!

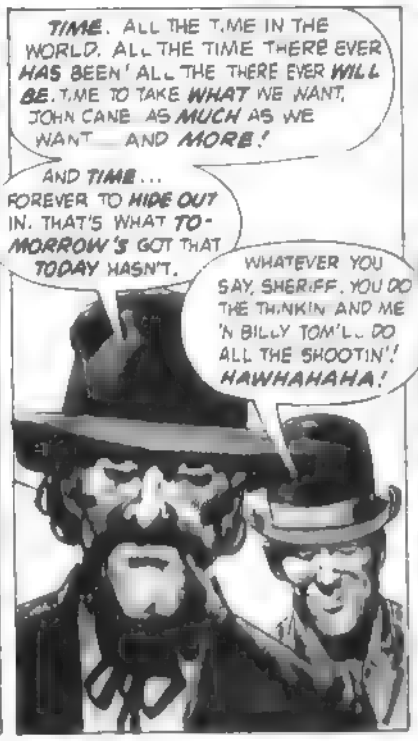
MY GOD!

A A ROBOT! BY NED, IT'S A ROBOT. IN 1874! INCREDIBLE!

THE BLACK BIRD LED ME DIRECTLY TO IT! BUT BUT IT'S NOT ACTIVATED!
OLD BIRD, YOU'RE NOT SO STUPID AFTER ALL. YOU STOLE THE WIRE SO I'D FOLLOW YOU TO THIS ROBOT!
GIMME THAT WIRE! YOU'RE TALKIN' TO REST IN DANE THE ROBOT KING! I'LL HAVE THAT TIN MAN HUMMING IN NO TIME!

THE CARNIVAL HAS COME TO BRIGHTEN OUR LISTLESS LIVES, BOYS! AIN'T IT A WONDER?
SHORE IS, SHERIFF. AIN'T THET RIGHT, JOHN CANE?
A MODERN MIRACLE, BILLY TOM. EH. WHO'S WE S'POSED TO BE LOOKIN' FER, SHERIFF HAWKINS?

YONDER HE COMES NOW, JOHN CANE. THAT'S OUR TICKET TO TOMORROW!
BUT WHAT'S TOMORROW GOT THAT TODAY AIN'T GOT, SHERIFF?

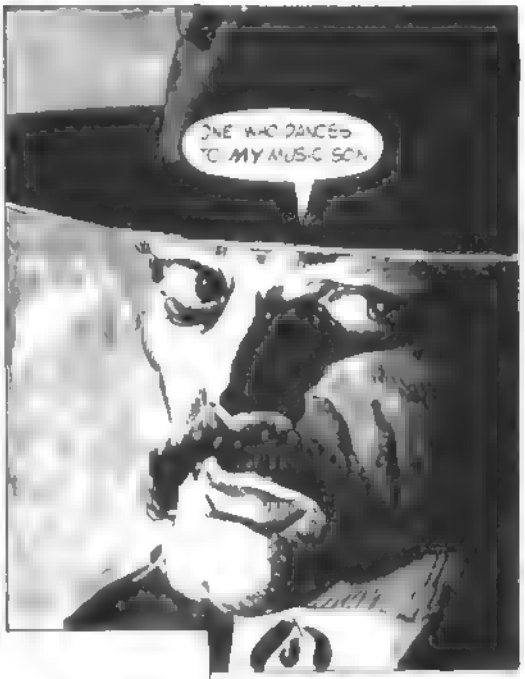

TIME. ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD. ALL THE TIME THERE EVER HAS BEEN! ALL THE THERE EVER WILL BE. TIME TO TAKE WHAT WE WANT, JOHN CANE AS MUCH AS WE WANT — AND MORE!
AND TIME... FOREVER TO HIDE OUT IN. THAT'S WHAT TOMORROW'S GOT THAT TODAY HASN'T.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SHERIFF. YOU DO THE THINKIN' AND ME 'N BILLY TOM'LL DO ALL THE SHOOTIN'! HAWHAHAHA!

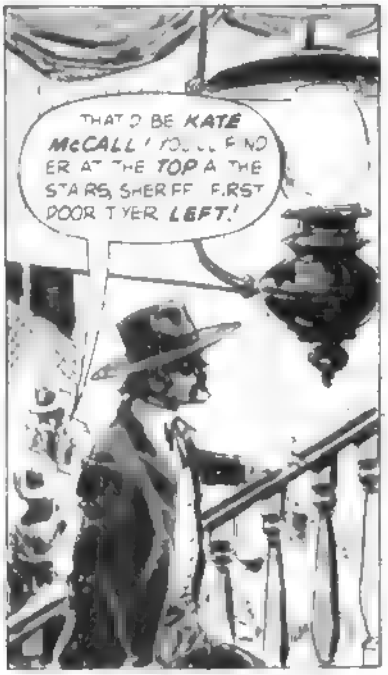
I'D NEVER HAVE EXPECTED TO FIND ANYTHING AS ADVANCED AS THIS IN THE PAST. JUST A FEW MORE ADJUSTMENTS AND...!

NUHNUH-UH... Y-YOU, YOU ARE A MASTER OF ROBOTICS LORD MASTER. I LIVE AGAIN!
WHO ARE YOU, ROBOT? WHO CREATED YOU? AND HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS PLACE?
AWKK!
I AM PALLAS... THE GUARDIAN TO THE GALLERY. I HAVE BEEN SENTINEL TO THIS PLACE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

MY MAKERS CAME TO THIS PLANET FROM A DISTANT STAR! THEY SET UP A LABORATORY HERE BENEATH THE EARTH TO STUDY YOUR RACE
BEHIND THIS GREAT DOOR ARE THE SCIENTIFIC TREASURES THEY LEFT BEHIND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. WHEN THEIR STUDIES WERE CONCLUDED SINCE THEN THEY HAVE RETURNED HOME, LEAVING ME ALONE... TO DEACTIVATE WITH TIME.
AND NOW YOU, SIR, ARE MY MASTER. HOW SHALL I SERVE YOU? ALL THAT I AM AND THAT WHICH LIES BEYOND IN THE GALLERY IS FOREVER YOURS TO COMMAND!

JOHN CANE WHERE DO I FIND THE MOST DELICIOUS MORSEL OF FEMININE FLESH IN THIS TOWN?
THE MARRYIN' KIND OR THE DANCIN' KIND SHERIFF?


ONE WHO DANCES TO MY MUSIC SON

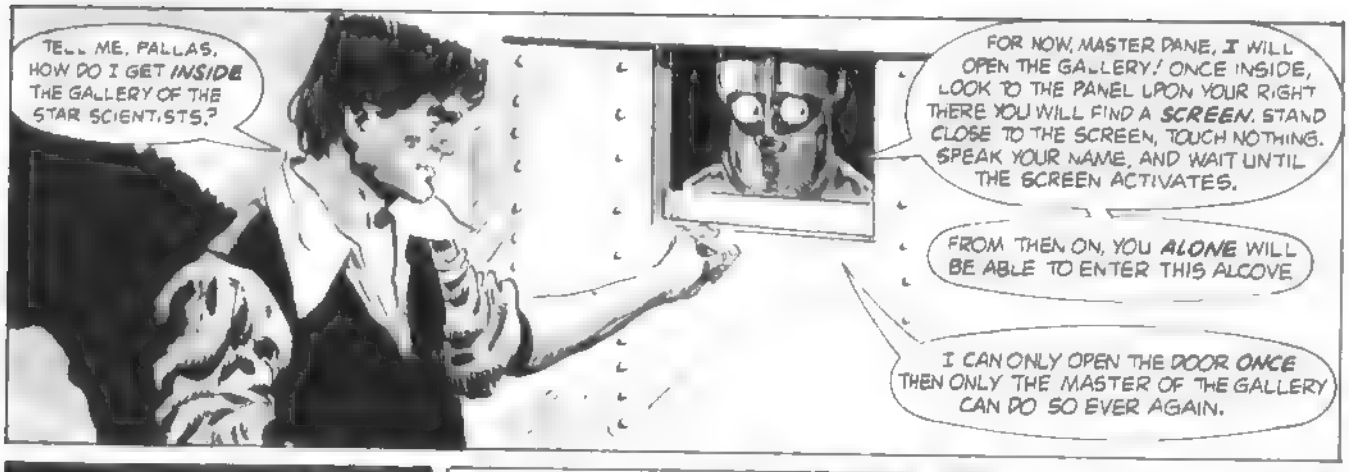

THAT'D BE KATE McCALL! YOU'LL FIND HER AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS, SHERIFF. FIRST DOOR TO YER LEFT!

MISS KATE McCALL? YOU'RE A THOUSAND TIMES MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE BOYS SAID YOU'D BE
FORGIVE THE INTRUSION. THE NAME'S HAWKIN GAT HAWKIN! YOUR NEW SHERIFF! I'VE GOT BUSINESS TO TALK OVER WITH YOU, MA'AM.
I CONDUCT MY BUSINESS DOWNSTAIRS, SHERIFF GAT HAWKIN. MY BOUDOIR DOESN'T HAVE A CASH REGISTER!

YOU'LL CONDUCT YOUR BUSINESS WHEN AND WHERE I SAY, WOMAN! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
NOW YOU'LL LISTEN REAL CLOSE OR SHERIFF GAT'LL BE BACK TO TEAR THAT PRETTY FACE OFF YOUR HEAD!

THIS IS MY TOWN NOW, LADY AND THERE'S GARBAGE LITTERING MY STREETS. BUT YOU'RE JUST ABOUT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF OLD GAT'S SANITATION DEPARTMENT!
MAKE YOUR PITCH, SHERIFF AND THEN CRAWL ON OUT OF HERE. YOU'RE STINKIN' UP MY BEDROOM!

THERE'S A CERTAIN GENTLEMAN YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THIS EVENING. HE'S BILLED FAR AND WIDE AS THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER, BISHOP DANE'S HIS NAME.
YOU'RE GOING TO BRING HIM UP HERE, GET HIM DRUNK AND STEAL HIS MONEY! AS SOON AS YOU DO THAT MY DEPUTIES'LL BUST IN AND ARREST DANE FOR VAGRANCY!
GOT IT?
YES, BLAST YOU! I GOT IT!


TELL ME, PALLAS, HOW DO I GET INSIDE THE GALLERY OF THE STAR SCIENTISTS?
FOR NOW, MASTER DANE, I WILL OPEN THE GALLERY! ONCE INSIDE, LOOK TO THE PANEL UPON YOUR RIGHT THERE YOU WILL FIND A SCREEN. STAND CLOSE TO THE SCREEN, TOUCH NOTHING. SPEAK YOUR NAME, AND WAIT UNTIL THE SCREEN ACTIVATES.
FROM THEN ON, YOU ALONE WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THIS ALCOVE
I CAN ONLY OPEN THE DOOR ONCE THEN ONLY THE MASTER OF THE GALLERY CAN DO SO EVER AGAIN.

CREEEK!
ENTER AND BEHOLD!

GOOD LORD...! A TREASURE-HOUSE OF SCIENTIFIC WONDERS! WITH THE MACHINERY IN THIS GALLERY I CAN CARRY ON MY WORK NO MATTER WHICH CENTURY I M IN.
MASTER DANE... I CAN ONLY HOLD THE DOOR OPEN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS GO TO THE SCREEN, QUICKLY.

I AM RESTIN DANE, MASTER OF THE GALLERY!

GLIK!
NOW, MASTER... THE BUTTON! IMPRINT YOUR LIFE RHYTHM NTO THE MACHINE MEMORY BANK!

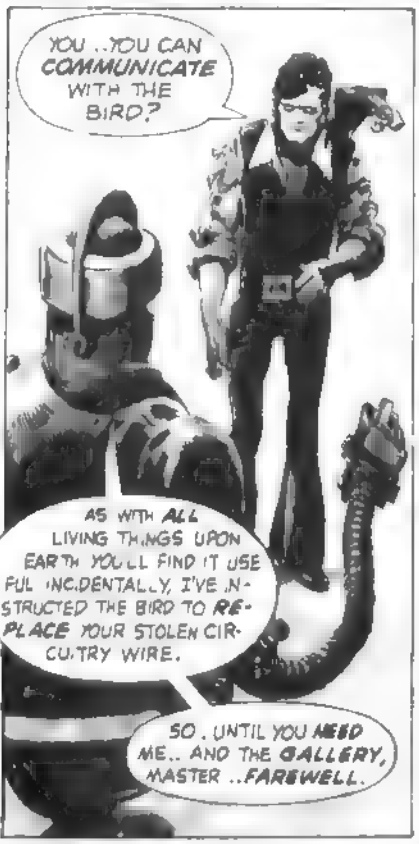
OZZZZZZZT!
H-HUH? W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

PALLAS!

I... I'M BLIND!

SO YOU'RE BISHOP DANE, THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER!
AND YOU, MISS, ARE THE MOST ENCHANTING CREATURE I'VE EVER HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING!
I'M KATE McCALL. I OWN THE EL DORADO SALOON.
IT'S AWFULLY DUSTY AROUND THE CARNIVAL, MISS McCALL. WON'T YOU LET ME ESCORT YOU FOR A DRINK OF SOMETHING SOCIABLE?

WHY DID YOU BLIND ME, PALLAS? I...I THOUGHT--!
THE BLINDNESS IS ONLY TEMPORARY, MASTER DANE! YOU WILL FIND OUT WHY THIS HAD TO HAPPEN THE NEXT TIME YOU UTILIZE THE GALLERY.
I WILL INSTRUCT THE BIRD TO LEAD YOU SAFELY OUT OF THE TUNNEL.


YOU ..YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE BIRD?
AS WITH ALL LIVING THINGS UPON EARTH YOU'LL FIND IT USEFUL. INCIDENTALLY, I'VE INSTRUCTED THE BIRD TO REPLACE YOUR STOLEN CIRCUITRY WIRE.
SO . UNTIL YOU NEED ME.. AND THE GALLERY, MASTER ..FAREWELL.

I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU BEFORE, BISHOP I...I'D LIKE TO STAY WITH YOU GET TO KNOW YOU.
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW I CAN LOVE AND LEAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU, KATE!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO RUN AWAY FROM ALL THIS TIRESOME LUXURY AND JOIN THE THRILL AND SQUALOR OF THE CARNIVAL?

OH. .OH, BISHOP, I...I CAN'T DO IT. ./ I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS. I... I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU .THE TRUTH.
WHAT--WHAT IS IT, KATE ? YOU CAN TELL ME! IT...IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AS TO HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
OH, BISH...HE MADE ME SET YOU UP! HE FORCED ME TO BRING YOU HERE...TO GET YOU DRUNK, STEAL YOUR MONEY! HE--HE WANTS TO CATCH YOU!
WHAT? WHO YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, KATIE GIRL?

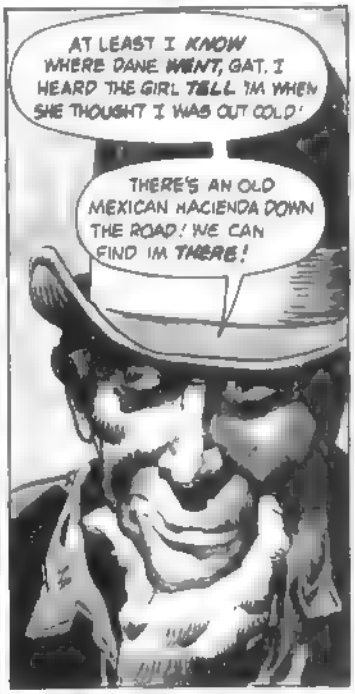
QUICKLY, BISHOP! RUN AWAY! GET OUT OF HERE. THROUGH THE WINDOW. I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW, JUST RUN...RUN BEFORE--!

MAKE A MOVE, GUNFIGHTER AND I BLOW YOUR HANDS OFF!

DAMN THEM BOYS! I TOLD 'EM NOT TO KILL BISHOP DANE! IF THEY'S MURDERED HIM, I'LL WRING THEIR--
BDAM!
BBAM!
K-RASH!

WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE? OH GOD! DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS...!
EVERYTHING WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN UNTIL MISS KATE TIPPED OFF TH' OLD MAN ABOUT THIS BEING A SET UP...!
DANE WAS READY WHEN YOU BUSTED IN TO ARREST HIM! HE SHOT BILLY TOM, SLUGGED YOU, JOHN CANE AND JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW AND ESCAPED!
GOSH, GAT WE...WE'S SORRY!

DON'T WORRY NONE ABOUT, BOY. WHERAS BEFORE I MIGHT HAVE HAD BISHOP DANE ON A CROOKED CHARGE, NOW I GOT HIM FOR MURDER OF OUR BELOVED FRIEND BILLY TOM! HAHA!


AT LEAST I KNOW WHERE DANE WENT, GAT. I HEARD THE GIRL TELL 'IM WHEN SHE THOUGHT I WAS OUT COLD!
THERE'S AN OLD MEXICAN HACIENDA DOWN THE ROAD! WE CAN FIND IM THERE!

I PITY YOU, WOMAN! YOU CROSSED THE WRONG MAN WHEN YOU CROSSED GAT HAWKIN!
NOW, WHEN I TURN LOOSE OF YOU, YOU GET ONE OF YOUR PRETTY LITTLE SALOON GIRLS TO RIDE UP TO THE LOW BUTTE OVERLOOKIN' TOWN. THERE SHE'LL FIND A STRANGE FELLER...A ROOK MAN, WITH A MACHINE SHAPED LIKE A CHESSPIECE!
YOU HAVE YOUR GIRL GIVE HIM A MESSAGE...!

THAT ANIMAL SHOULD BE SHOT FOR BEATING A WOMAN THE WAY HE BEAT YOU, MISS KATE!
I'M ALRIGHT, JANUARY, A LITTLE SORE IS ALL! BUT PLEASE, HURRY! WE'VE GOT TO WARN THIS MAN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIND. ONLY HE CAN SAVE BISHOP DANE NOW.

HYIII!

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR **ME**? I . I DON'T **UNDERSTAND**! HOW COULD YOU EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE ? AND THIS **GAT HAWKIN** PERSON YOU'RE SPEAKING OF.. HOW COULD HE KNOW?

WHAT'S **MORE**.. THIS **OTHER** MAN **BISHOP DANE**! YOU SAY HE HAS **JIM BOWIE'S** KNIFE AND GAT HAWKIN IS GONNA **KILL** HIM UNLESS I COME QUICK!?

I SURELY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT ALL LADIES! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE CAUSED A SLEW OF TROUBLE WITH MY **TIME TRAVELLING**!

YOU SURE YOU CAN'T SHED MORE LIGHT ON THIS, MISS MISS--?

JANUARY BOONE I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT ALL MEANS I JUST NOW SORT OF CAME INTO IT. LIKE YOU.

WELL, COME ON DOWN, JANUARY BOONE MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS IN MY **TIME TAPES** THANK GOD MY VISION'S CLEARED IT WOULDN'T DO TO TAKE ON A MYSTERY THIS SIZE WHILE BEING MORE IN THE DARK THAN I ALREADY **AM**!

COME INTO MY **TIME CASTLE** AND I'LL SHOW YOU **WONDERS** THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU'VE NEVER **SEEN**!

SO **THATS** THE WHOLE STORY!? GAT HAWKIN WAS AT THE **ALAMO**! HE FOUND OUT MY SECRET AND CAME TO **1874** WITH ME! NOW HE'LL DO **ANYTHING** TO GET HIS CROOKED HANDS ON MY **MACHINE**

BUT **MORE**... NOW I **KNOW**! THAT KID I SAVED AT THE ALAMO IS THE SAME PERSON HOLED UP INSIDE THE HACIENDA RIGHT NOW! HE'S MY OWN GREAT, GREAT, **GRANDFATHER**, BISHOP DANE THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER!

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BECOME SOME SORT OF **MASKED AVENGER** AND SAVE MY OWN ANCESTOR FROM THE BAD GUYS ONLY **THIS** TIME I PRAY I'M MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN **LAST**!

OH .. **PLEASE** SAVE HIM SIR! **PLEASE**....! I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH A MAN COULD MEAN TO ME UNTIL I MET **HIM**.

I'LL.. I'LL DO MY **BEST** KATE.

DO YOUR BEST FOR ME, TOO MASKED AVENGER! GET YOUR **OWN** HIDE OUT IN ONE PIECE . **PLEASE**!

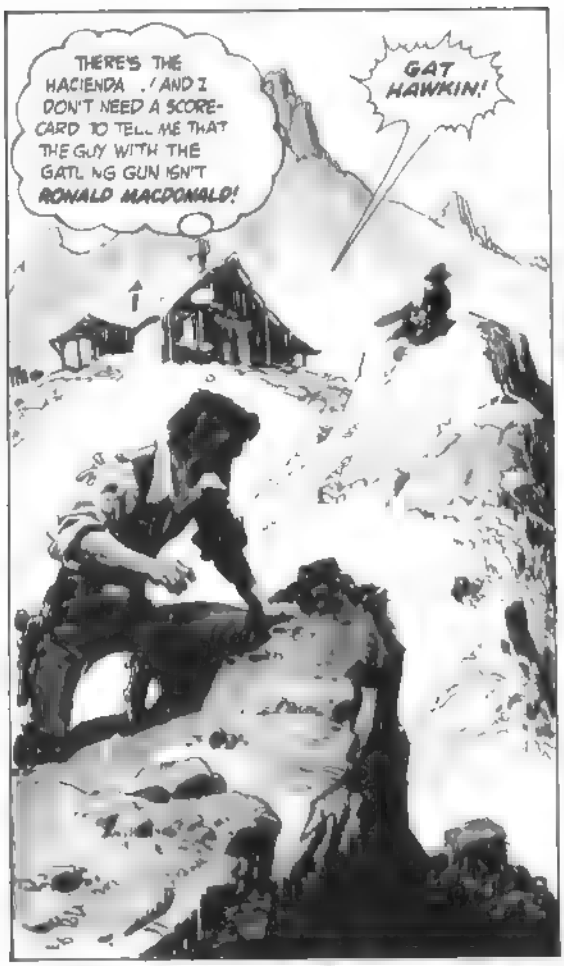
I...I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR **NAME**! ALL I KNOW IS..I'VE NEVER MET A MAN LIKE YOU BEFORE! AND...AND I HATE TO LOSE YOU BEFORE EVEN FINDING YOU, ROOK MAN!

COME BACK **SAFE**.. OKAY?

MISS JANUARY BOONE . THAT'S THE SWEETEST THING ANYONE'S SAID TO ME IN MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS!

YOU'VE GOT MY **WORD**! I'LL BE **BACK** FOR YOU!

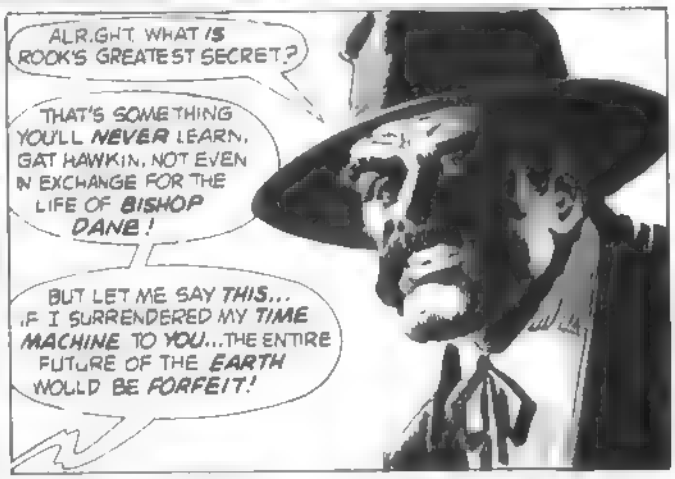
MMMMMM!


THERE'S THE HACIENDA . . . AND I DON'T NEED A SCORE-CARD TO TELL ME THAT THE GUY WITH THE GATLING GUN ISN'T RONALD MACDONALD!
GAT HAWKIN!

ROOK MAN! YOU SHOWED UP! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
LOOK'S LIKE YOU GET NAMED BY THE MACHINES YOU OWN. NAME'S DANE. RESTIN DANE.
I KNOW THAT, ROOK MAN. SAME NAME AS THE KILLER I GOT TRAPPED DOWN YONDER. DANE. KIN OF YORE'S, IS HE?

YOU KNEW IT BEFORE I DID. IN FACT, YOU KNEW EVERYTHING. YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER THAT I WAS A TIME TRAVELER, WHY I WENT BACK TO THE ALAMO, EVERYTHING!
YOU'RE QUITE A CLEVER FELLOW, GAT HAWKIN.

BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND. AND THAT'S WHY I BUILT A TIME MACHINE. AND WHY I RETURNED TO THE PAST...! YOU CALL ME ROOK. FAIR ENOUGH. ROOK IT IS! BUT WHAT IS ROOK'S GREATEST SECRET?


ALRIGHT. WHAT IS ROOK'S GREATEST SECRET?
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER LEARN, GAT HAWKIN, NOT EVEN IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIFE OF BISHOP DANE!
BUT LET ME SAY THIS... IF I SURRENDERED MY TIME MACHINE TO YOU...THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF THE EARTH WOULD BE FORFEIT!

THEN I'LL KILL BISHOP DANE... AND YOU'LL CEASE TO EXIST! BECAUSE... YOU'LL NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN!
YOU STILL WON'T HAVE THE TIME MACHINE! IT'LL CEASE TO EXIST TOO! I WOULD HAVE NEVER LIVED TO BUILD IT!

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCE! SAY GOOD-BYE, ROOK MAN.. YOU AND YOUR STINKING MASTER GUNFIGHTER CAN MEET IN OBLIVION!
NOOOO!
BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA!

I'VE GOTTA STOP HIM! HIS GATTLIN' GUN IS MAKING SPLINTERS OF THAT CABIN!
BISHOP DANE WILL BE KILLED FOR SURE!
BABABABABABABABABABABABABA

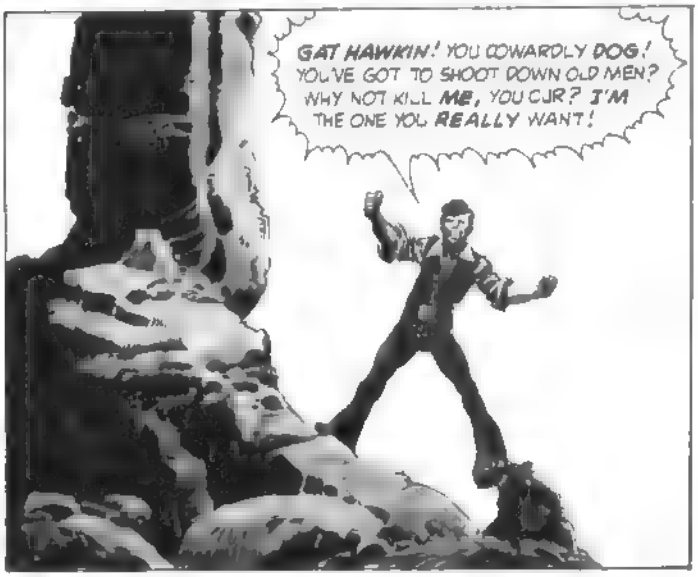
ONLY ONE CHANCE! IT'S A MILLION TO ONE SHOT! BUT IT'S MY ONLY HOPE!

THIS EXPERIMENTAL TELEPORTER! I.. I'VE NEVER USED IT ON A HUMAN BEING IT'S TOO RISKY! BUT NOW... NOW IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE MY GREAT GREAT, GRANDFATHER!
BA BA
BA BA
BABABABABABABABABABA!

ALL I CAN DO IS LOCK IN ON THE TIME MACHINE AND PRAY THIS WILL TELEPORT BOTH ME AND THE OLD MAN OUT OF THE RANGE OF HAWKIN'S GUN!

HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

DIRECT HIT! NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS GIVE GAT HAWKIN A MORE APPROPRIATE TARGET!
TOO BAD I CAN'T JUST PUT A BULLET IN HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT. BUT THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THAT WOULD UNBALANCE HISTORY! AND IT SEEMS I'VE ALREADY DONE MY SHARE OF THAT!
BABABABABABA!


GAT HAWKIN! YOU COWARDLY DOG! YOU'VE GOT TO SHOOT DOWN OLD MEN? WHY NOT KILL ME, YOU CUR? I'M THE ONE YOU REALLY WANT!

THAT YOU ARE, LADDY! AND I OBLIGE YOU FOR THE TARGET PRACTICE!
BABABABABABABA!
GOTTA...

RUN, RABBIT! RUN! ONCE YOU'RE INSIDE THAT HUT, YOU AND THE OLD MAN ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD! HA! HA! HA! HA!
BABABABABABABABA BA!
GOTTA..

...MAKE IT!
KRASH!
BABABABABABABABABA

BISHOP DANE! THANK GOD..! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
YOU COME WITH ME, OLD MAN! I'VE GOT US A WAY OUT OF HERE!

RIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. A COUPLE OF INCHES MORE..AND WE'RE SAFE!
BABABA!
BABABA!

THAT'S IT, OLD MAN! JUMP! JUMP FOR YOUR LIFE!
BABABABABABABABABA!

WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU AIN'T NEVER SEEN!

IT WAS FAR FROM OVER. FAR FROM DONE. TOMORROW WAS BEHIND BUT THE GAME WAS YET TO END. RESTIN DANE ..AND BISHOP DANE WERE SAFE.
THERE WAS STILL PAWNS, KNIGHTS AND CASTLES...!
AND THERE WERE TWO HELPLESS WOMEN..AT THE MERCY OF A RUTHLESS BLACKGUARD WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING TO BECOME...THE MASTER OF ALL TIME!

END

THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

Australian press baron and *National Star* publisher Rupert Murdoch ponied up an estimated $30 million in December to buy the chronically ill *New York Post* from autocratic old Dolly Schiff. On the same day he officially became publisher of the paper Alexander Hamilton founded in 1801, he also purchased controlling interest in the company which publishes *New York, New West* and the *Village Voice.*

Now Murdoch, who owns the *San Antonio News-Express* and about 85 other papers in England and Australia, still has plenty of money left to throw around. Chances are that he won't spend any of it to buy a comic-book company, however, and that said, don't expect any major upheavals in the industry during 1977. There's bound to be a passel of smaller changes, though, and here are some of the possibilities:

Keep an eye on Archie Goodwin, presently the editor of Marvel Comics. Archie is one of the few really talented people in the field, and certainly one of the most popular, but his track record shows he's a restless man. He'll have been with Stan the Man and Marvel for about a year by the time you read this and it wouldn't surprise me if he's with another company before the end of 1977.

No guesswork here, either, just the law of averages. He seems to move from one company to the next every 18 months or so and he's made the National-Marvel-Warren circuit no less than twice in the last decade.

Godzilla may well emerge as this year's Howard the Duck and lay the groundwork for a whole series of Japanese monster comics. After dickering with the Japanese for four years, Marvel finally went ahead and got the rights to the world's most popular reptile and the first issue of *Godzilla* comics is due out soon.

And even though Marvel has the often-demonstrated penchant for screwing up sure things, Godzilla's incredible popularity among pre-teens will easily get him through a "House of Ideas" adaptation. I'm wondering whether Stan and the boys are even aware of the extent of Godzilla's rabid following. When I was the managing editor of *The Monster Times* in 1972 and 1973, we realized Godzilla and his Oriental friends were clearly America's favorite monsters, easily outstripping King Kong, Frankenstein and the other pretenders to the throne. We started a Godzilla column and readers wrote thousands of letters to it. When we ran Godzilla against Nixon, McGovern and "insurgent" King Kong in a 1972 election-year poll, Godzilla not only got something like 75 per cent of the readers votes, but editor Joe Kane's hilariously tongue-in-cheek "Godzilla-for-President" campaign rhetoric and poster became an adult craze and garnered the paper a bonanza in free television news coverage.

Godzilla is a shoo-in for best selling new title of 1977. Marvel should have done it years ago.

Remember the name Steve Ross and look for something to change over at National. Ross, chairman of the board of Warner Communications, has let it be known that all of Warner Publishing is for sale—cheap. While the word is out that Warner would like to dump its whole print group—which includes *Mad,* Independent News and Warner books—the conglomerate might also be amenable to selling off just the comics end, as long as Warner retains the lucrative licensing rights and the distribution contract.

On the other hand, should Warner be unable to divest itself of DC, I wouldn't bet my life savings on another full year of leadership from publisher Jeanette Kahn. Everyone's quick to say nice things about her publically, but privately no one says much for her publishing acumen. Patience in her may be wearing thin at the corporate level and, barring a dramatic sales and profit turnaround, Warner may think her and her simplistic and superficial "messages of untold importance" to the readers are expendable.

This will be an important year for Phil Seuling, long-time king of comic-book conventions. He's had several spectacularly disappointing New York Conventions is succession, culminating in last year's disastrous patchwork conclave, and his prestige and reputation are slipping. San Diego's Con is almost universally recognized as THE comic-book convention now, surplanting Seuling's 9-year-old event, and his attendance has slipped badly.

Should this year's convention bomb, Seuling might face major competition in the New York "market" in 1978, probably from another dealer who'd attempt to organize a New York Convention on the Independence Day weekend. Certainly the schoolteacher-cum-comics-mogul can't be faulted for much of last year's debacle—his hotel closed a month before the convention and finding an other site in the midst of New York's Bicentennial madness was nearly impossible—but this has to be viewed as a put-up-or-shut-up year for him. Should 1977's convention be as dull and lifeless as his last two or three attempts, he may very well find himself in head-to-head competition with another promoter bent on running the "traditional" July 4th convention in New York.

1977 is also destined to be the year of Maurice Horn. Despite the fact that the comic-book industry is rapidly making itself extinct, academic interest in comic books will reach an all-time high this year and Horn is far and away the most visible of all comic art critics. While his 1976 project, *The World Encyclopedia of Comics,* was being justifiably pelted by the fans for numerous inaccuracies, Horn has a 2-inch thick file of rave reviews from daily newspapers. Rightly or wrongly, those raves, the *Encyclopedia* and his past accomplishments will unshakably establish his credentials as the nation's leading comics expert. No one will be able to touch him. He's already got at least one book on tap for 1977, *Western Comics* (Winchester Press, $15), is still reaping the benefits of his highly successful lecture at the Smithsonian Institute's culture seminar last September and will surely emerge as the industry's most viable spokesman in the next decade.

He's got a ton of powerful enemies, most notably the syncophantic National Cartoonist Society, but chances are he'll be the generator and prime recipient of most of the academic and media attention aimed at comics in 1977.

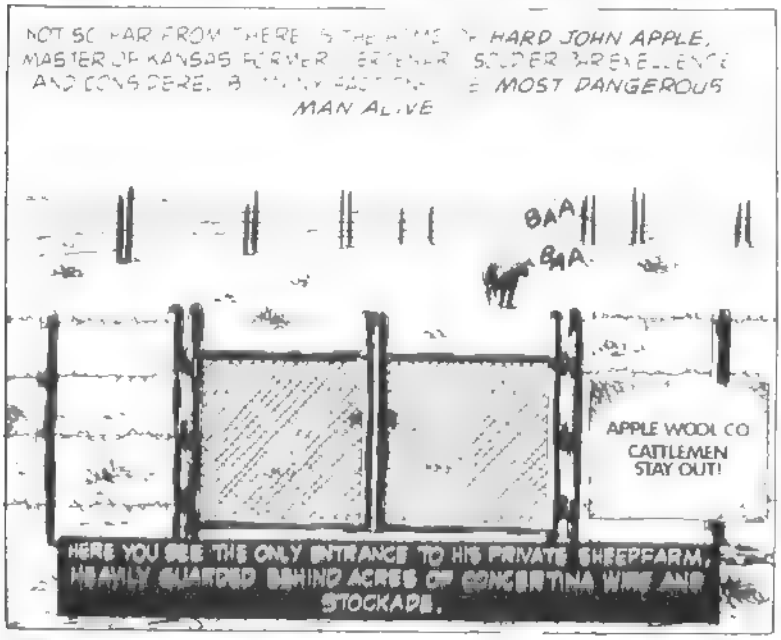
As usual, Robert Crumb will continue carrying the credibility of the whole underground movement on his shoulders—even though neither he nor the rest of the undergrounders are willing to admit it. While the rest of the movement floundered unnoticed in 1976, as it did in 1975 and 1974 before that, Crumb started a short-lived *Mr. Natural* feature in the *Village Voice,* then unwittingly caused a furor when he voluntarily ended the strip some months later. On top of that, his *Carload O'Comics* was surely the only worthwhile underground book published during the year. For better or worse, he *is* the underground movement right now, like it or not.

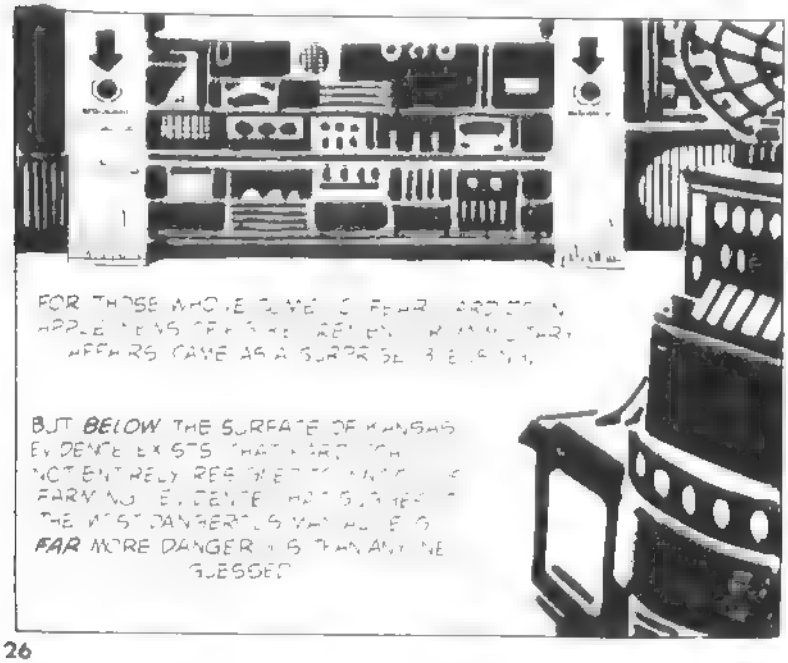
Don't wager much on the success of National's latest $1 comic-book drive. Retailers have been heavily negative so far, distributors have told me, mainly because they are reluctant to bump $2 skin magazines like *Hustler* and *High Society* and *Club* in order to find newsstand space for the *Superman Family.*

The opinions expressed on this page are exclusively those of Mr. Brancatelli. As such, they may not reflect the thinking of Warren Publishing Company's management or employees.

PROLOGUE

PLAINLANDS PARCHED BARREN
BREEDS
FOOD AND WATER
MAN AND AN
THIS IS KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, 15 YEARS AFTER THE HOLY-
COOK, YOU ARE LOOKING AT IT FROM ACROSS THE KANSAS
RIVER.


NOT SO FAR FROM THERE IS THE HOME OF HARD JOHN APPLE,
MASTER OF KANSAS
AND CONSIDERED
MOST DANGEROUS
MAN ALIVE
BAA
BAA
APPLE WOOL CO
CATTLEMEN
STAY OUT!
HERE YOU SEE THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO HIS PRIVATE SHEEPFARM,
HEAVILY GUARDED BEHIND ACRES OF CONCERTINA WIRE AND
STOCKADE.


FOR THOSE WHO
BUT BELOW THE SURFACE OF KANSAS
FAR MORE DANGER
GUESSED

BLUB!
DROWNING!

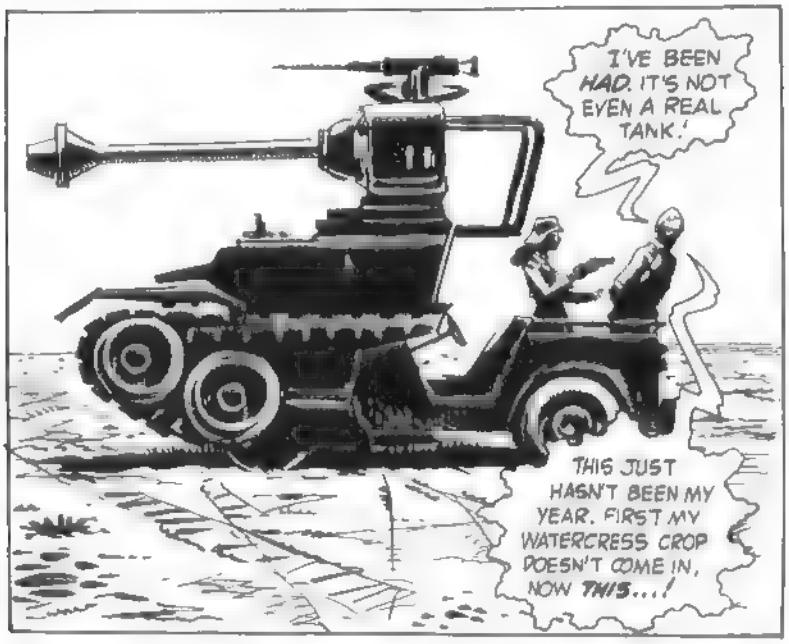
Hard John's
NUCLEAR
Hit Parade
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
CLIMB OUT OF THAT HOLE AND KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! STOP SHOOTING!
NO FUNNY BUSINESS, OR I PLANT A CANNON-SHELL IN YOUR NAVEL!
I GIVE UP ALREADY!
SHEE!
KANSAS CITY BOMBER

WHA? A GIRL! A BLINKING FEMALE!
OH, MY ACHING BACK!
ARE YOU INJURED?

YES I'M INJURED! WHAT'S THE IDEA, CHASING ME ALL OVER THE PLAINS WITH THAT BUFFALO?
LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO MY TRUCK!
AND LOOK AT ME! MERCIFUL MANDRAKE, LOOK AT ME!!

YOU SEEM HEALTHY TO ME. WHERE ARE YOU INJURED?
HUH? AH, HERE. YOU HAVE TO LOOK CLOSER...!
GOSH IT HURTS.

PTU PTUI! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THINGS WORSE FOR YOURSELF!
THIS IS HARD JOHN APPLE YOU'RE FOOLING WITH..!
MASTER OF KANSAS! SCOURGE OF CATLICK'S EVERYWHERE!


I'VE BEEN HAD. IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL TANK!
THIS JUST HASN'T BEEN MY YEAR. FIRST MY WATERCRESS CROP DOESN'T COME IN, NOW THIS...!

YOU SEEM A COLORFUL CHARACTER, COMRADE. IT WILL BE A PITY TO SHOOT YOU AFTER WE'VE TAKEN OVER.
COMRADE?

JUST WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
COL TARARA BOOMDEYOV. ADVANCE SCOUT FOR THE RED THREAT ARMY, AT YOUR SERVICE.

WE ARE ATTACKING YOUR BORDERS FROM THE NORTH, THROUGH ALASKA.
YOU DON'T TELL ME.
IT IS OUR INTENTION TO DESTROY THE CORRUPT RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD AND RESTORE OUR PRECIOUS POLITICS.

WE NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS. YOU HAVE NO CHANCE.
COMRADE, YOU ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THIS COUNTRY ANYWAY YOU CAN. I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY. ME, I GOT OTHER INTERESTS.
SO IF YOU'LL JUST UNLOCK THESE CUFFS, I'LL BE ON MY WAY.

FIRST I WILL KNOW THE LOCATION OF YOUR COMPANY, ITS STRENGTH AND ITS WEAPONRY.
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! I'M NOT IN ANYBODY'S ARMY ANYMORE! I LIVE ALONE!
THE LOCATION
I FORGET

YOU WILL TELL ME ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION?
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHY DO YOU ASK ME THAT?!

BECAUSE WE ARE GOING FOR A FAST WALK!
EAST!
EAST!
GO EAST!

a bit of History:

WHAT IS KNOWN OF THE ORIGIN OF THE HOLY COST IS THAT IT BEGAN IN MAY 1988, AND THAT NO COUNTRY WILL ADMIT TO STARTING IT. AS THE POSTWAR SATIRIST, TOM COLLINS, PUTS IT: "NOBODY PUSHED A BUTTON; WE HAVE ALL BEEN SCORCHED BY FEROCIOUS SUNSPOT ACTIVITY."

WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THE HOLY COST CONTINUED FOR 24 YEARS, EVENTUALLY REDUCING THE EARTH'S POPULATION TO A MILLION CITIZENS. THE HOLY COST ENDED, PETERED OUT REALLY... WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THE WORLD'S LAST BALLISTIC MISSILES ON APRIL 1ST, 2020.

WELL, NOT *QUITE* THE LAST MISSILES. BUT WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF OURSELVES.

ME CHILLUN, I WILL LIFT YOUSE MISERABLE DREGS FROM DIS HOLY-COST! ALL I ASK IS YER *BLIND OBEDIENCE!*

ME CHILLUN, I HAVE HERE A MESSAGE FROM *GOD!* HE SEZ DE *SECOND-COMING* NEAR!

POLITICAL SYSTEMS EVERYWHERE COLLAPSED AS GREATER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TURNED TO *RELIGION* FOR GUIDANCE IN WHAT SEEMED EARTH'S FINAL HOUR. FOR *CATLICKS*, SOLACE COULD BE FOUND IN THE WORDS OF *HOLY ROLLO*:

HOLY ROLLO WAS A MAN OF CREDIBLE PERSUASION. WISHING TO SEE CATLICKS THE SOLE ADMINISTRATIVE POWER IN THE WORLD TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, HE DECIDED TO *STIR UP* HIS CONGREGATION AGAINST THE OTHER RELIGIONS.

HE SEZ HE WILL FIND FAVOR ONLY IN THOSE FOLKS WHO ARE ON *TOP* WHEN HE ARRIVES. ALL *OTHERS* WILL GO TO *HELL!*

SO SHAKE A LEG! YOU WANNA BE ON *TOP*, DON'TCHA?

THE PLOY SUCCEEDED. GOOD CATLICKS WHO FEARED THEY WOULDN'T GET A SEAT IN HEAVEN WHEN *DOOMSDAY* CAME BEGAN A DEADLY STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL *RIVAL SECTS* AT *ANY PRICE CATLICKS HAD TO BE ON TOP* WHEN THE SECOND-COMING CAME.

PROCLAMATION

BY ORDER OF HIS MOST CATLICK

HOLY ROLLO

PROTS MUS' DIE
MOOZLUMS MUS' DIE
HINDOOZ MUS' DIE
DAVIDISTS MUS' DIE
VEHICKS MUS' DIE
LOOFRANS MUS' DIE
MESSDISTS MUS' DIE
BOODIES MUS' DIE ...
SINESTOPOGISTS MUS' DIE
[illegible] MUS' DIE

BUT THE OTHER RELIGIOUS SECTS HAD THEIR *OWN* IDEAS, AND BEING *EXTERMINATED* WAS NOT AMONG THEM.

FOR THOSE SECTS THAT COULD AFFORD THEM, HIGHLY SKILLED *MERCENARY SOLDIERS* WERE HIRED TO DEFEND THEIR FAITHS.

ONE OF THESE, A FREELANCER WORKING FOR THE PROTS, WAS *HARD JOHN APPLE.*

EVEN BEFORE HE WAS OUT OF HIS TEENS, HARD JOHN APPLE HAD BECOME A LEGEND AMONG HIS CONTEMPORARIES AND HIS EXPLOITS ARE THE TALK OF FOUR CONTINENTS.
BUT NOT KNOWN IS THE EVENT THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER CONCERNING HIS CAPTURE OF THE NOTORIOUS CATLICK TERRORIST HEMLOCK ZINGER.
I'LL BE LEAVING YOU NOW, MR ZINGER ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE I BLOW YOU UP?

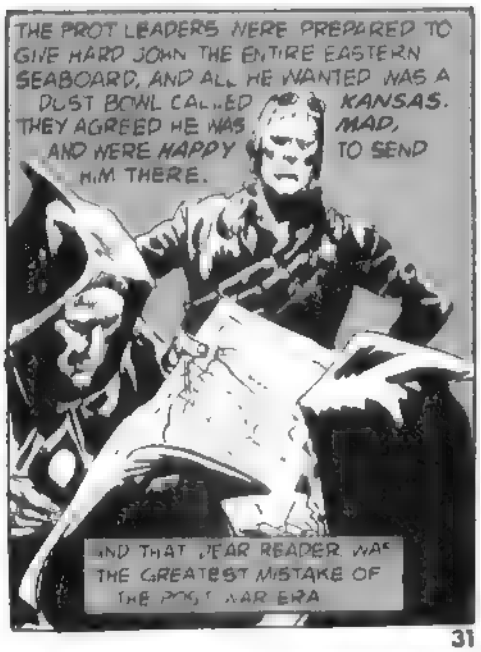
IF I DIE, THE SECRET DIES WITH ME.
SET ME FREE AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW TO BECOME A MASTER OF THE WORLD!

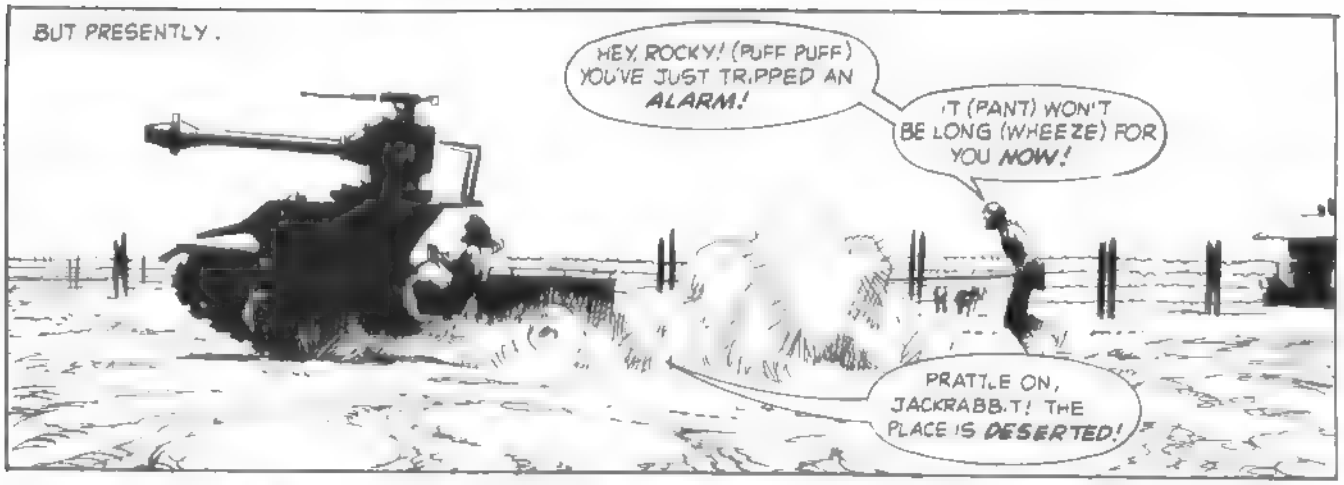
SOME WEEKS LATER, HARD JOHN IS INVITED TO A HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE PROT LEADERS.
LISSEN, HARD JOHN. WE'RE GONNA DIVVY THE U.S.
I'LL TAKE KANSAS.

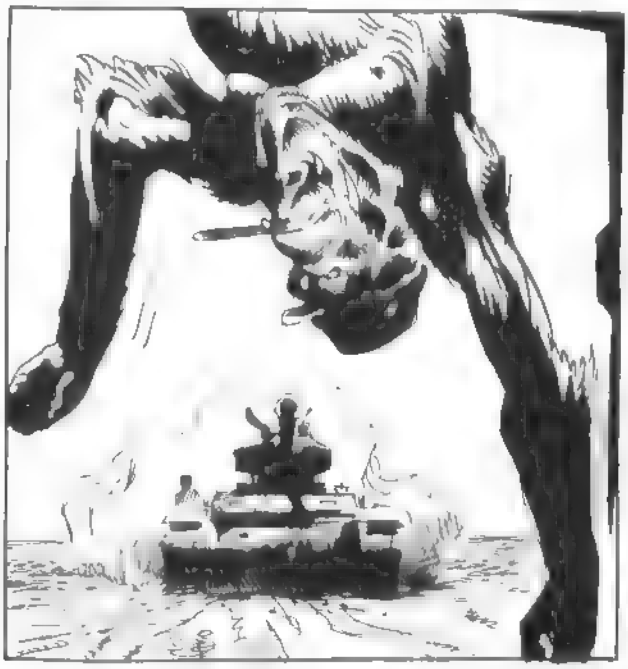
KANSAS? LIKE THE STATE KANSAS? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ..
LOTTA OPPORTUNITY OUT KANSAS WAY REMINDS ME OF HOME .. ALL THEM FAR-OUT MOUNTAINS GREEN FIELDS, AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN ..
OBVIOUSLY, THE PROT LEADERS THOUGHT THIS MAN HAS NEVER BEEN TO KANSAS.

BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO OUT THERE?
GOING TO SETTLE DOWN. RETIRE-LIKE RAISE SHEEP MAYBE. AND GROW MY OWN LAMBCHOPS

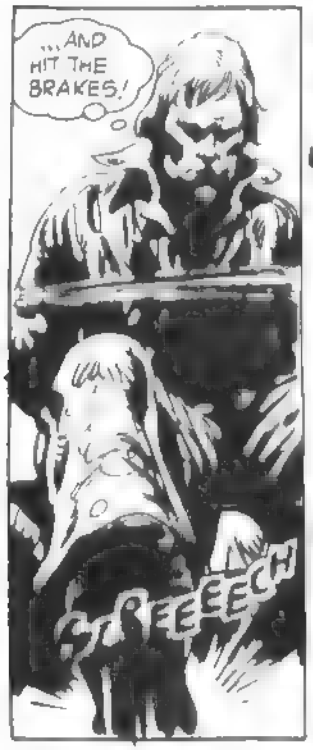
IS YOURS
I'LL TAKE IT.


THE PROT LEADERS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE HARD JOHN THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD, AND ALL HE WANTED WAS A DUST BOWL CALLED KANSAS. THEY AGREED HE WAS MAD, AND WERE HAPPY TO SEND HIM THERE.
AND THAT, DEAR READER, WAS THE GREATEST MISTAKE OF THE POST WAR ERA


BUT PRESENTLY .
HEY, ROCKY! (PUFF PUFF) YOU'VE JUST TRIPPED AN ALARM!
IT (PANT) WON'T BE LONG (WHEEZE) FOR YOU NOW!
PRATTLE ON, JACKRABBIT! THE PLACE IS DESERTED!



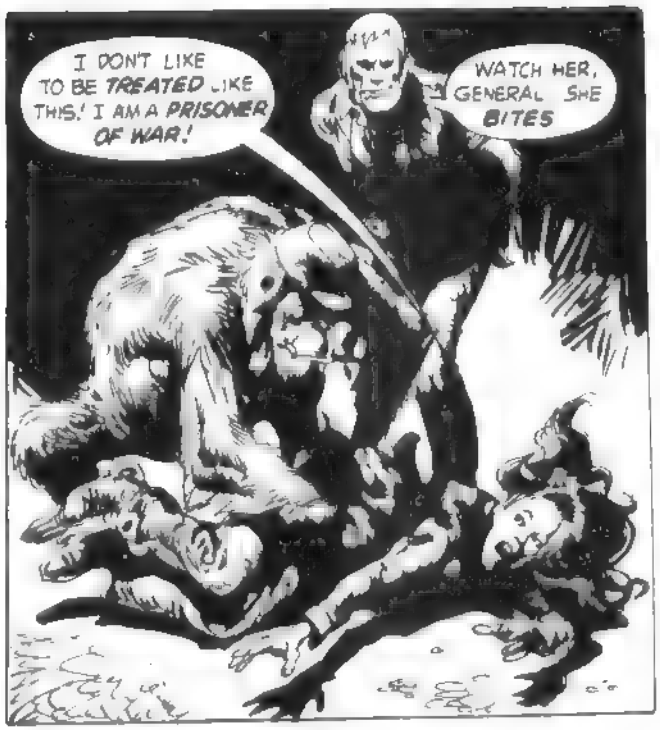
NOW TO MAKE A QUICK LEAP INTO THE JEEP ..


...AND HIT THE BRAKES!
SCREEEECH

YOU SAID YOU LIVED ALONE.
DON'T WE ALL, REALLY, WITHIN OURSELVES?

VERY WELL, I AM YOUR PRISONER. TELL YOUR BROTHER TO RELEASE ME.
OH, THAT'S THE GENERAL! HE'S AN ORANGUTAN...SMART AS A WHIP AND HALF AS HUMANE!
DROP HER, GENERAL

GET THE KEY!
OOF!


I DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS! I AM A PRISONER OF WAR!
WATCH HER, GENERAL SHE BITES

NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I BEEN SO HUMILIATED!
YEAH? STICK AROUND.
OKAY, THAT'S T GENERAL.

?
CALLS HERSELF TARARA BOOMDEYOV..
HER FRIENDS MIGHT FOLLOW HER HERE. WE'LL HAVE TO ACCELERATE THE PROGRAM.

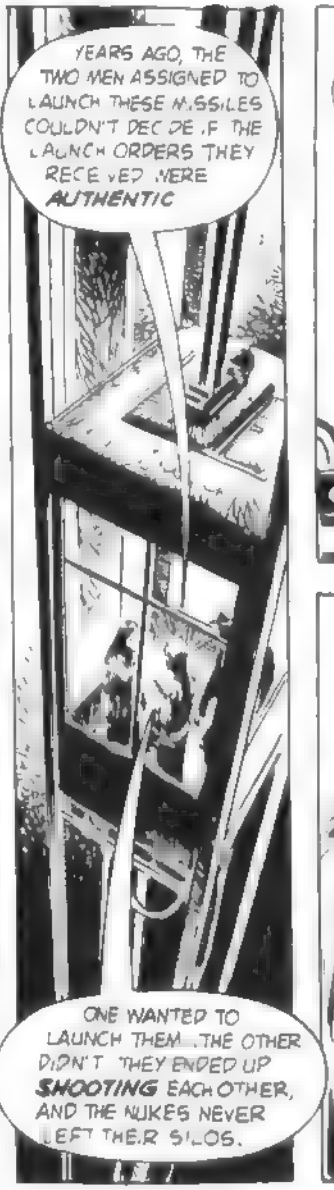
GRRR
I DON'T LIKE IT ANY BETTER THAN YOU.
MAYBE SHE CAN HELP US WITH THE PROGRAM YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING HOW OVERWORKED YOU ARE.

WHAT PROGRAM? WHAT J.BBERISH IS TH S?
THIS WAY, SISTER. TO THE OTHER END OF THE HANGAR.

SPASKY! ARE THOSE...
THEM'S NUKES, BABY. 1250 MINUTEMAN NUCLEAR MISSILES.. ARMED, FUELED, AND RARIN' TO GO!
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MISSILE BASE?
HARD JOHN'S NUCLEAR HIT PARADE!

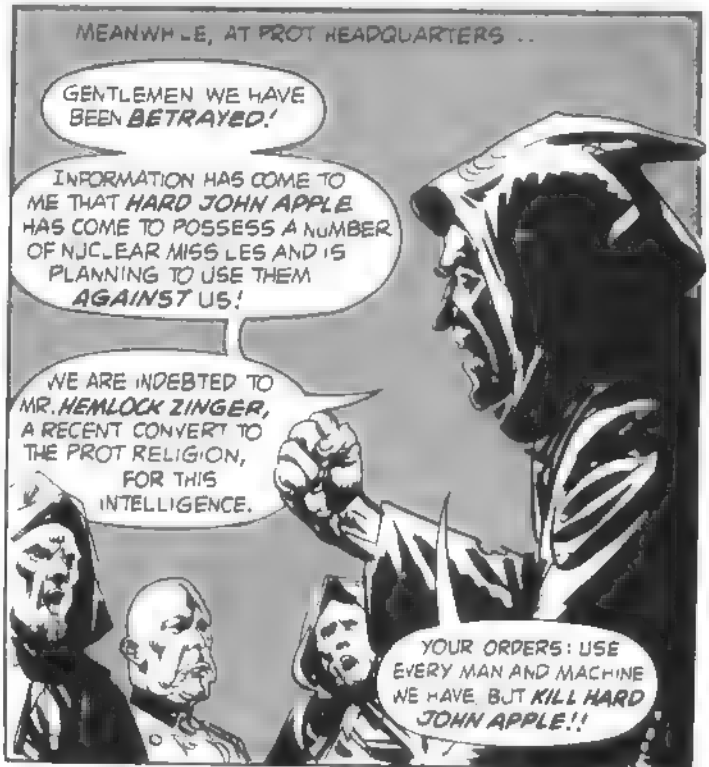
I THOUGHT ALL THE BOMBS WENT UP IN THE HOLY-COST.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY THOUGHT A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, HEMLOCK ZINGER, TOLD ME ABOUT THESE.
C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU THE CONTROLS WE'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR.

BUT ..WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO WITH NUKES? YOU DROP THEM ON PEOPLE! GEE, WHAT A QUESTION.


YEARS AGO, THE TWO MEN ASSIGNED TO LAUNCH THESE MISSILES COULDN'T DECIDE IF THE LAUNCH ORDERS THEY RECEIVED WERE AUTHENTIC
ONE WANTED TO LAUNCH THEM ..THE OTHER DIDN'T THEY ENDED UP SHOOTING EACH OTHER, AND THE NUKES NEVER LEFT THEIR SILOS.

AND HERE IT IS. THE BRAIN THE CENTER OF THE WHOLE BASE.
FEED THE SECRET CODE INTO THIS BANK, TURN THIS KEY AND THAT KEY SIMULTANEOUSLY AND BOOM! EVERYTHING GOES. THIS PLACE INCLUDED.

THE GENERAL DOESN'T THINK I SHOULD BE TELLING YOU ALL THIS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?



READ THE NEXT EXCITING ADVENTURE OF HARD JOHN APPLE IN EERIE #84 ON SALE APRIL 28TH! **END**

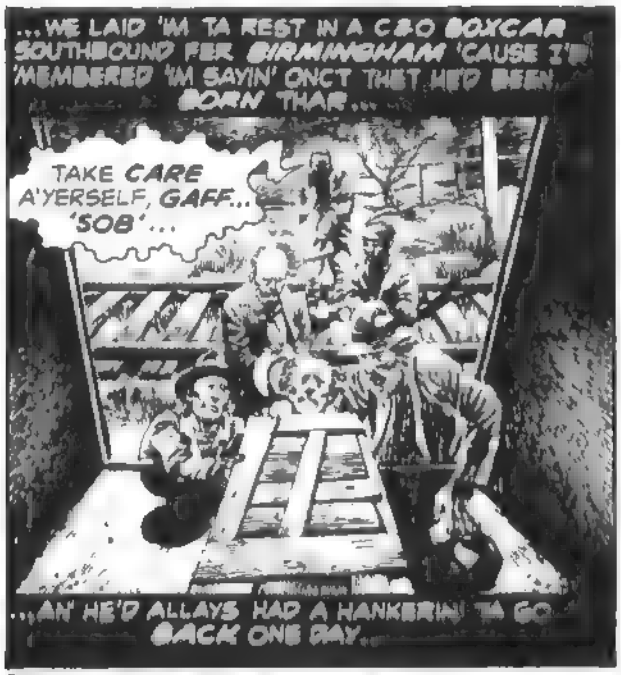
GAFFER TEMPTATON

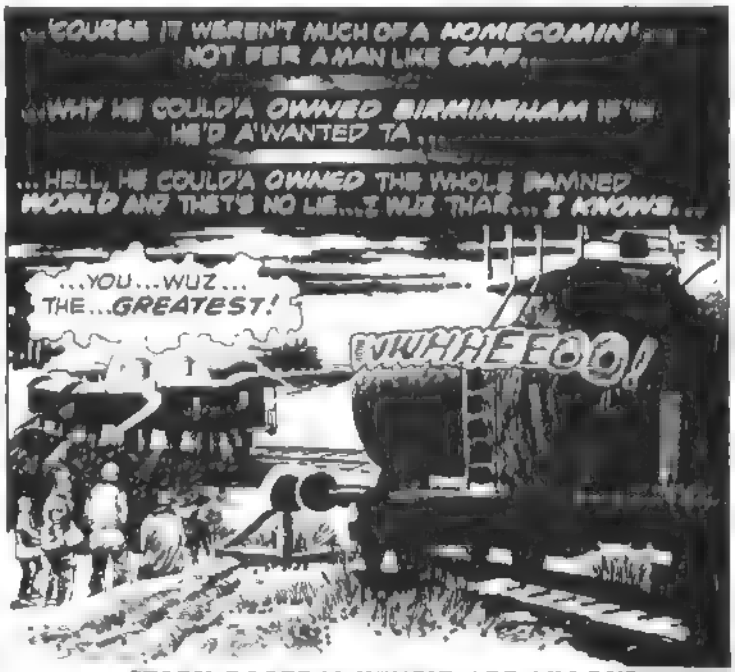
GAFFER'S DAID NOW...

...WE BURYED 'IM ONE COLD, WINDSWEPT EVENIN' BACK IN '32 IN A RICKETY MAKE-SHIFT CASKET PIECED TOGETHER FROM BITS A'SCRAP LUMBER AN' ORANGE CRATES AN' BENT, RUSTED NAILS...

WEREN'T MUCH...NOT FER A MAN LIKE GAFF...

BUT IT WUZ THE BEST WE COULD DO...





STORY ROGER McKENZIE/ART LEO DURANONA

...I COULDN'T A BEEN NO MORE 'AN **TEN** OR SO THE DAY I FURST **MET** IM AT A SMALL **CARNY** THET HAD JEST PULLED INTA TOWN...

...IT WUZ THE MIDDLE **A'AUGUST**, I 'MEMBER, AN' **HOT AS BLAZES**...

...CHANCE TA LEARN... **'PUFF'**...REAL **MAGIC**, FOLKS! ONLY A **QUARTER** FER THIS CHAN--'HUH'--?

HAMBURGLERS

HEY! HEY, YOU!

...YEAH, THET WUZ SOME DAY **ALLRIGHT**... ...THET WUZ THE DAY I WENT TA **HELL** AN' BACK...

I THOUGHT I TOLD YA ONCE TA GIT YER BLACK ASS OUT'A HERE, YA LOUSY **BUM**, AN I MEANT IT! I WON'T HAVE YA **BOTHERIN'** MUH PAYIN' **CUSTOMERS**! NOW **GIT LOST**!

BUT... BUT... BUT...

...'COURSE I DIDN'T KNOW THET **THEN**... AN' NEITHER DID **GAFF**...

...HE WUZ JEST SETTIN' THAR ON THE **CURB** AN' YA COULD SEE THE HURT AN' THE PAIN AN THE **LONELINESS** DRIPPIN' OFF'IN HIS THIN SHOULDERS. I MIGHT'A BEEN JEST A **KID** THEN BUT I KNEW WHUT BEIN' LONELY WUZ ALL ABOUT...

...AN' STAY LOST!

...**MA'D** BEEN **DAID** 'BOUT A **YEAR** AN' I'D NEVER EVEN **SEEN** MUH **POP**, CEPT'IN FER THE OLD, FADED **TINTYPE** THET MA'D ALLAYS KEPT ON HER **DRESSER**...

'BUM' INDEED! MEBBE I AM A LITTLE **DOWN** ON MUH **LUCK**, BUT, **'HUH'**--?

I'D LIKE TA LEARN SOME'A THET **MAGIC**, MISTER...IF'IN YU'D SHOW ME, THET IS.

TOBACCO

TONTO GARAGE

...HE LOOKED UP AT ME AN' I DON'T THINK HE EVEN **SEEN** ME FER THE LONGEST TIME...LIKE HE WUZ REAL **FAR AWAY** OR SOMETHIN'...

...BUT THEN HIS DEEP BROWN **EYES** CLEARED AND DANCED IN HIS WRINKLED HEAD LIKE TINY, LAUGHIN' **BALLERINAS** AN' HIS THIN MOUTH SPREAD CLEAR CROSS HIS FACE IN A BIG, FRIENDLY **GRIN**...

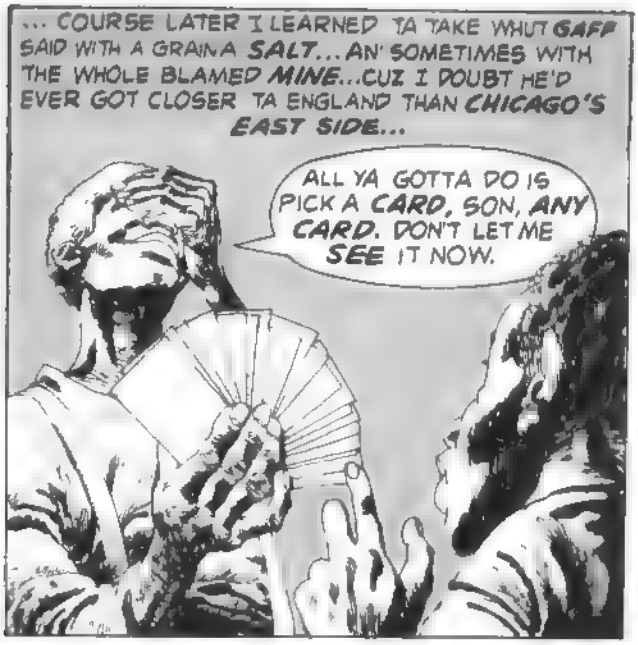
MAGIC? WHY SHORE, SON, IT'D BE MUH **PLEASURE**! IT SHORELY **WOULD**!

...AN' HE PULLED A DECK OF OLD, BENT **CARDS** FROM A POCKET AN' GOT TA HIS **FEET**...

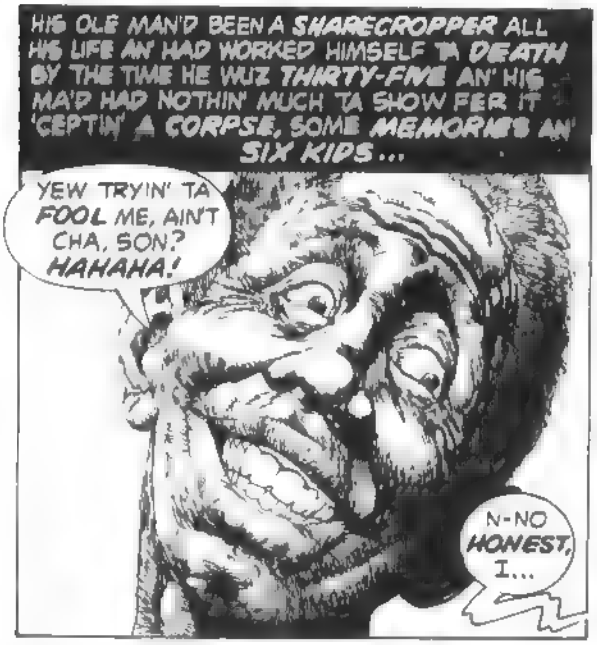
...IT MUST'A BEEN MUH **IMAGINATION**, I SUPPOSE, BUT ALREADY HE LOOKED LIKE HE WUZ 'BOUT TEN YEARS **YOUNGER**...

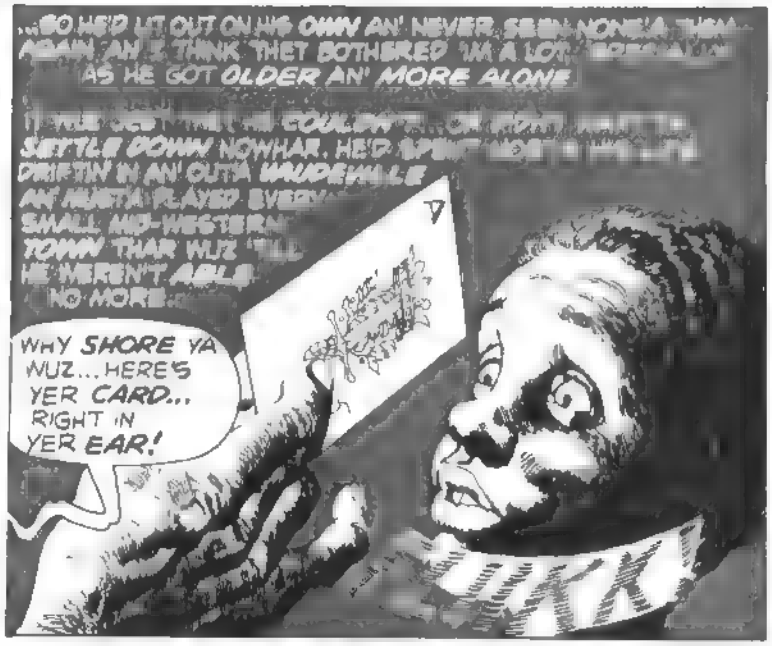
I KNOW JEST THE **TRICK**, TOO, SON!

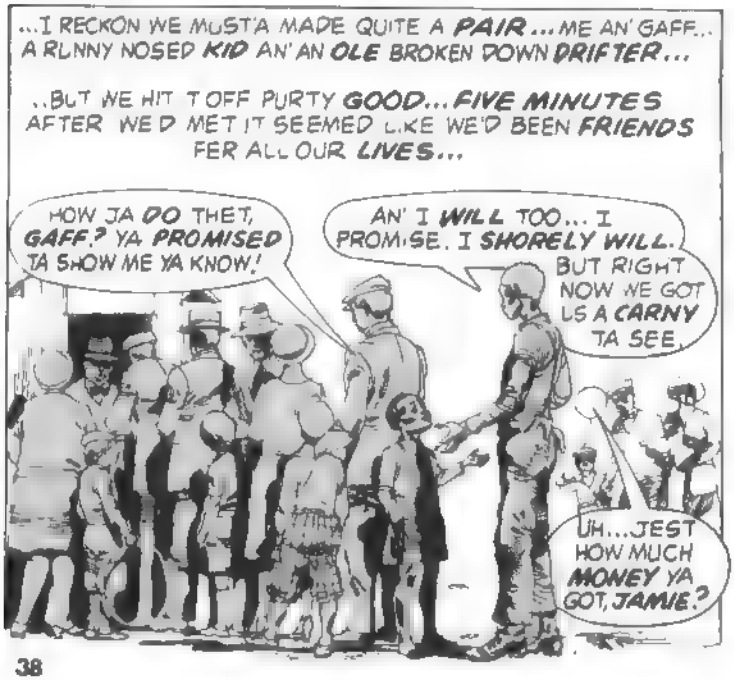
WHY THIS IS THE TRICK **I** USED TA FOOL EVEN THE **QUEEN'A ENGLAND**...IT SHORELY IS!


... COURSE LATER I LEARNED TA TAKE WHUT GAFF SAID WITH A GRAIN A SALT... AN' SOMETIMES WITH THE WHOLE BLAMED MINE...CUZ I DOUBT HE'D EVER GOT CLOSER TA ENGLAND THAN CHICAGO'S EAST SIDE...
ALL YA GOTTA DO IS PICK A CARD, SON, ANY CARD. DON'T LET ME SEE IT NOW.

...BUT THET WUZ JEST THE WAY HE WUZ...A DREAMER...
...YA COULDN'T BLAME 'IM MUCH FER THET...!
YEW MEMBERIZE IT, SON, THEN PUT IT BACK IN THE DECK.


HIS OLE MAN'D BEEN A SHARECROPPER ALL HIS LIFE AN' HAD WORKED HIMSELF TA DEATH BY THE TIME HE WUZ THIRTY-FIVE AN' HIS MA'D HAD NOTHIN' MUCH TA SHOW FER IT 'CEPTIN' A CORPSE, SOME MEMORIES AN' SIX KIDS...
YEW TRYIN' TA FOOL ME, AIN'T CHA, SON? HAHAHA!
N-NO HONEST, I...


...SO HE'D LIT OUT ON HIS OWN AN' NEVER SEEN NONE'A THEM AGAIN. AN' I THINK THET BOTHERED 'IM A LOT... AS HE GOT OLDER AN' MORE ALONE
SETTLE DOWN NOWHAR. HE'D
DRIFTIN' IN AN' OUTA
AN' MUSTA PLAYED EVERY
SMALL MID-WESTERN
TOWN THAR WUZ
HE WEREN'T ABLE
NO MORE...
WHY SHORE YA WUZ... HERE'S YER CARD... RIGHT IN YER EAR!


...I RECKON WE MUST'A MADE QUITE A PAIR... ME AN' GAFF... A RUNNY NOSED KID AN' AN OLE BROKEN DOWN DRIFTER...
..BUT WE HIT T OFF PURTY GOOD... FIVE MINUTES AFTER WE'D MET IT SEEMED LIKE WE'D BEEN FRIENDS FER ALL OUR LIVES...
HOW JA DO THET, GAFF? YA PROMISED TA SHOW ME YA KNOW!
AN' I WILL TOO... I PROMISE. I SHORELY WILL. BUT RIGHT NOW WE GOT US A CARNY TA SEE.
UH...JEST HOW MUCH MONEY YA GOT, JAMIE?

FIFTY CENTS, I...
FINE, SON! THET'S A QUARTER A PIECE AN' I'LL EVEN PAY YER WAY IN FER YA.
WELL, I...
AIN'T THET WHUT FRIENDS'R FER SON? TWO, PLEASE
...AN' SIX MINUTES AFTER WE'D MET HE'D SNOOKERED ME OUTA HALF MUH MONEY!

...BUT SOMEHOW, COMIN' FRUM GAFF, THET SOUNDED LIKE A PURTTY GOOD DEAL TA ME...

'SNUFF'! JEST SMELL THEM RED HOTS AN' ROASTED PEANUTS, SON.

...'SIDES, HE STILL OWED THET TRICK...

DON'T IT JEST SET YER MOUTH A WATERIN'? YOU DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D--HUH--?

YOU! YOU, SIR!

YES, I'M SPEAKING TO YOU, SIR. YOU LOOK LIKE A GAMBLING MAN TO ME SO HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO, AH... TRY YOUR LUCK? JUST PICK THE CORRECT NUMBER AND WIN ANY PRIZE ON THE SHELF. IT ONLY COSTS ONE NICKEL...A MERE TWENTIETH OF ONE DOLLAR!

WELLLL...

...I HAVE BEEN KNOWED...

WHEEL of CHANCE

GAFF STUDIED THE BARKER FER A SPELL AN' HIS EYES NARROWED TA TINY SLITS SORT'A LIKE HE WUZ A'LOOKIN' RIGHT THROUGH THE MAN OR SOMETHIN'...

...THEN HE LAUGHED AN' SHRUGGED HIS BENT SHOULDERS AN DUG WAY DOWN DEEP IN HIS POCKET, FISHIN OUT HIS LAST NICKEL...

...TA WAGER FRUM TIME TA TIME...I SHORELY HAVE! AN' IF'IN THE TRUTH BE KNOWED, I FEEL A MITE LUCKY TADAY. HOW BOUT YOU, SON?

GOSH, GAFF, I...I DON'T KNOW ...I...

HAHAHA--! YA GOTTA HAVE FAITH, SON! YA SHORELY DO! LET ER SPIN, I'LL TAKE NUMBER NINE!

NINE IT IS, GENTLEMEN.

NINE! YA DID IT, GAFF! YA WON!

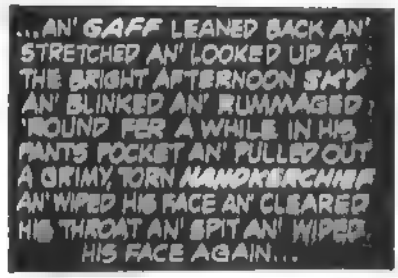
...GAFF DIDN'T SAY MUCH FER A WHILE...HE TOLD ME LATER HE WUZ A'FIGGERIN' THE ANGLES...

...HE ALLAYS SAID THET A PERSON HAD TA DO THET...IF'IN THEY EXPECTED TA GIT BY...

...AN' HE DID, TOO. HE WUZ INCREDIBLE. HE BET HIS WINNIN'S 'GINST THE HOUSE AN' KEPT RIGHT ON ROLLIN'...

...I'D NEVER SEEN NOTHIN' LIKE IT...HE JEST COULDN'T LOSE... NOT GAFF...

HA! WE WINS AG IN, SON! WHUT'LL BE THIS TIME?



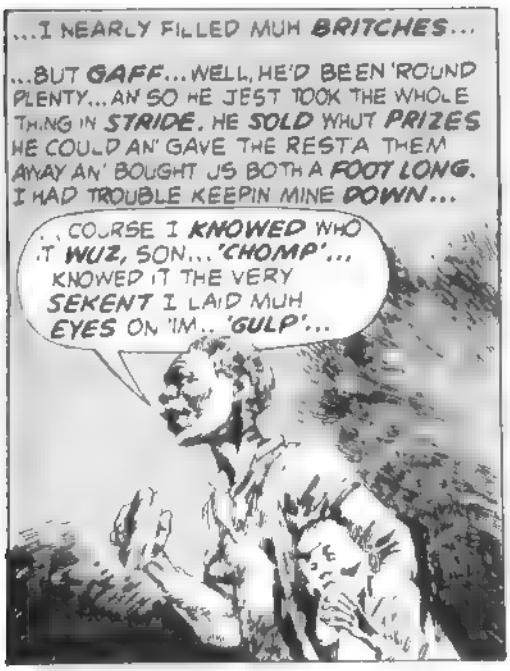
...IT HURT MUH EARS, THET LAUGHIN' DID...

...IT WUZN'T HUMAN...

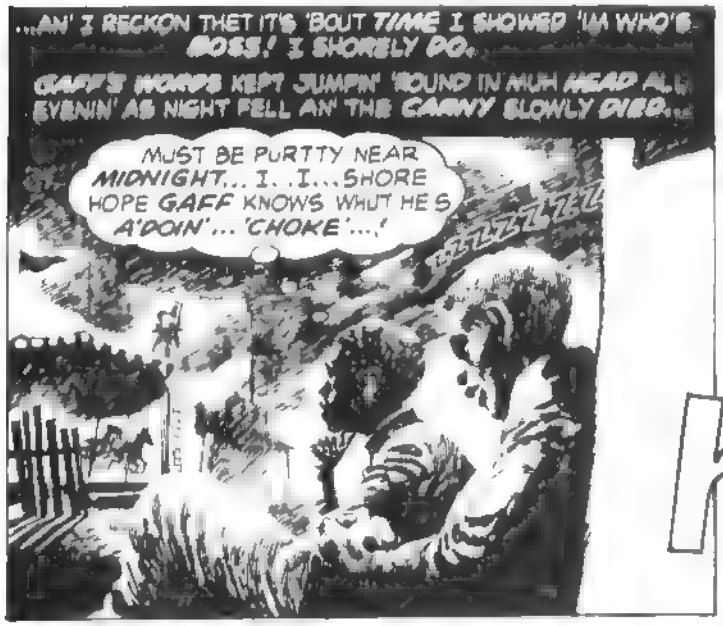
...IT WUZ AS COLD AN' DRY AS A FROZEN CREEK AN' CUT THROUGH ME LIKE A GUST OF WINTER WIND...

...WHICH SHORE WUZ SURPRISIN'...

...CONSIDERIN JEST WHAR IT WUZ A'COMIN' FRUM.


...I NEARLY FILLED MUH BRITCHES...
...BUT GAFF... WELL, HE'D BEEN 'ROUND PLENTY... AN SO HE JEST TOOK THE WHOLE THING IN STRIDE. HE SOLD WHUT PRIZES HE COULD AN' GAVE THE RESTA THEM AWAY AN' BOUGHT US BOTH A FOOT LONG. I HAD TROUBLE KEEPIN MINE DOWN...
COURSE I KNOWED WHO IT WUZ, SON... 'CHOMP'... KNOWED IT THE VERY SEKENT I LAID MUH EYES ON 'IM... 'GULP'...

...YA SEE JAMIE... HE'S BEEN A'TEMPTIN' ME FER MOSTA MUH LIFE NOW...
GAS
GASOLINE 25¢


...AN' I RECKON THET IT'S 'BOUT TIME I SHOWED 'IM WHO'S BOSS! I SHORELY DO.
GAFF'S WORDS KEPT JUMPIN' 'ROUND IN MUH HEAD ALL EVENIN' AS NIGHT FELL AN' THE CARNY SLOWLY DIED...
MUST BE PURTTY NEAR MIDNIGHT... I. . I... SHORE HOPE GAFF KNOWS WHUT HE'S A'DOIN'... 'CHOKE'...!

...AN' THET'S WHEN WE FOUND HELL...
...OR TA BE MORE PRECISE, IT FOUND US WITH A BLINDIN', EYE-SPLITTIN' GLARE AN' THE STINK OF SULFUR AN' BRIMSTONE...
...AN OF COURSE, THE LAFFIN'... AN' I THINK THET WUZ PROBABLY THE WORST PART...!
GAFF! WAKE UP, GAFF!
ZZZZZ...
'HUH...?
hahahah

AH... GENTLEMEN, I'D HOPED TO FIND YOU HERE!
IT WUZ SHAKIN' JEST LIKE A LEAF IN A STORM BUT I WUZ SHORE PROUD'A GAFF...

...PROUDER 'N I'D EVER BEEN'A ANYONE. YA SHOULD'A SEEN 'IM WHEN OLE SCRATCH LEANED OVER AN' LAID HIS HAND ON MUH SHOULDER AN' PATTED ME REAL LIGHT, JEST LIKE HE WUZ MUH PA OR SOMETHIN'... AN' MUH ARM STARTED ACHIN' LIKE MUH VERY BLOOD ITSELF WUZ A'CATCHIN' FIRE.
NOTHING LIKE... AH... A LITTLE FUN AND GAMES, S THERE, SON?
I... I...

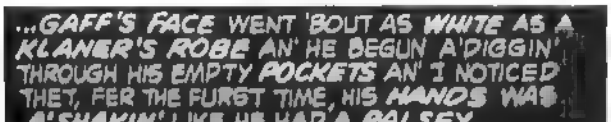
...AN'...NEEDLESS TA SAY... WE FELL 'BOUT AS FER AS ANYBODY COULD A POSSIBLY FELL...

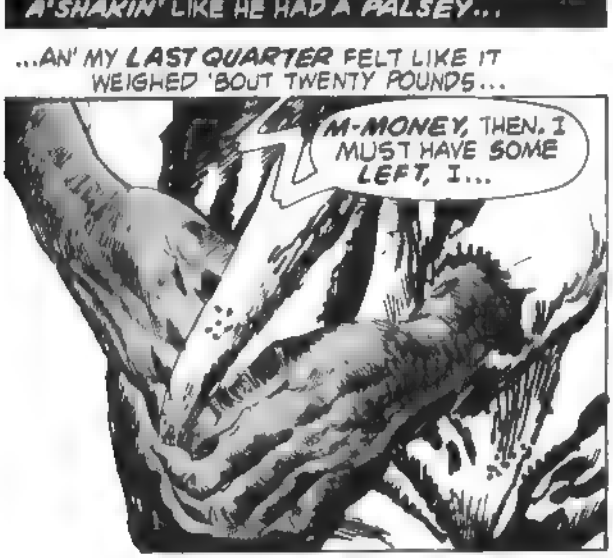
...YOU...HAHA... KNOW HOW I ABHOR VIOLENCE! HAHAHAHA!
HE MUST'A THOUGHT THET WUZ SOME JOKE, BUT I WUZN'T LAFFIN'...
...AN' NETHER WUZ GAFF. HE JEST CLEARED HIS THROAT AN' SUGGESTED THET WE GET ON WITH IT...

...BUT ALL I WANTED TA DO WUZ GIT OUT'A THAR QUICK AS I COULD AN' NEVER, EVER LOOK BACK AGAIN FER AS LONG AS I LIVED...!
VERY WELL THEN, GAFFER, BUT MAY I ASK JUST EXACTLY WHAT IT S YOU WISH TO WAGER ON OUR... AH... LITTLE GAME?

WELL, UH, MUH SOUL, I RECKON... IT'S PERT NEAR ALL I GOT LEFT.
GAFF... 'CHOKE'... YA CAIN'T DO THET! YA JEST CAIN'T!

YOUR...HOHOHO... SOUL? OH HOW RICH, HOW RICH! HAHAHA! THAT HAS BEEN MINE FOR SOME TIME NOW, MY DEAR FELLOW! HAHAHAHA!

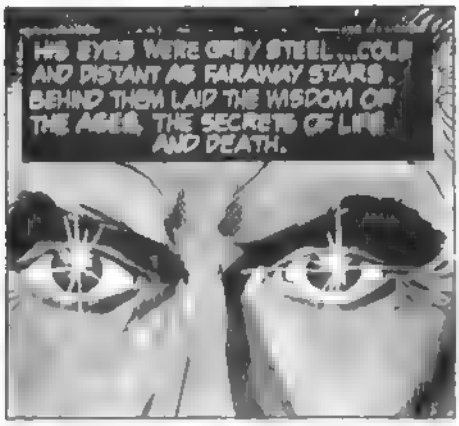

...GAFF'S FACE WENT 'BOUT AS WHITE AS A KLANER'S ROBE AN' HE BEGUN A'DIGGIN' THROUGH HIS EMPTY POCKETS AN' I NOTICED THET, FER THE FURST TIME, HIS HANDS WAS A'SHAKIN' LIKE HE HAD A PALSEY...

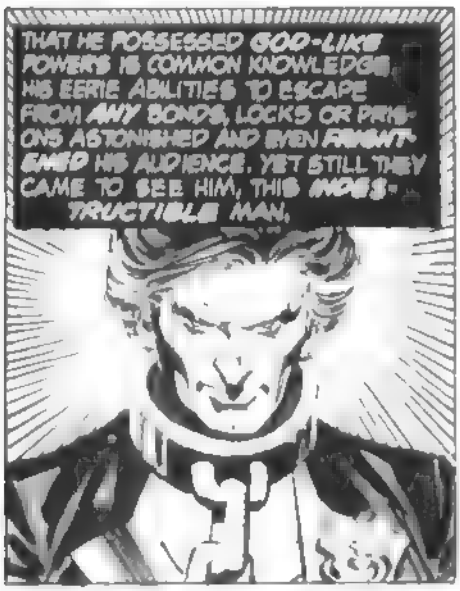

...AN' MY LAST QUARTER FELT LIKE IT WEIGHED 'BOUT TWENTY POUNDS...
M-MONEY, THEN. I MUST HAVE SOME LEFT, I...

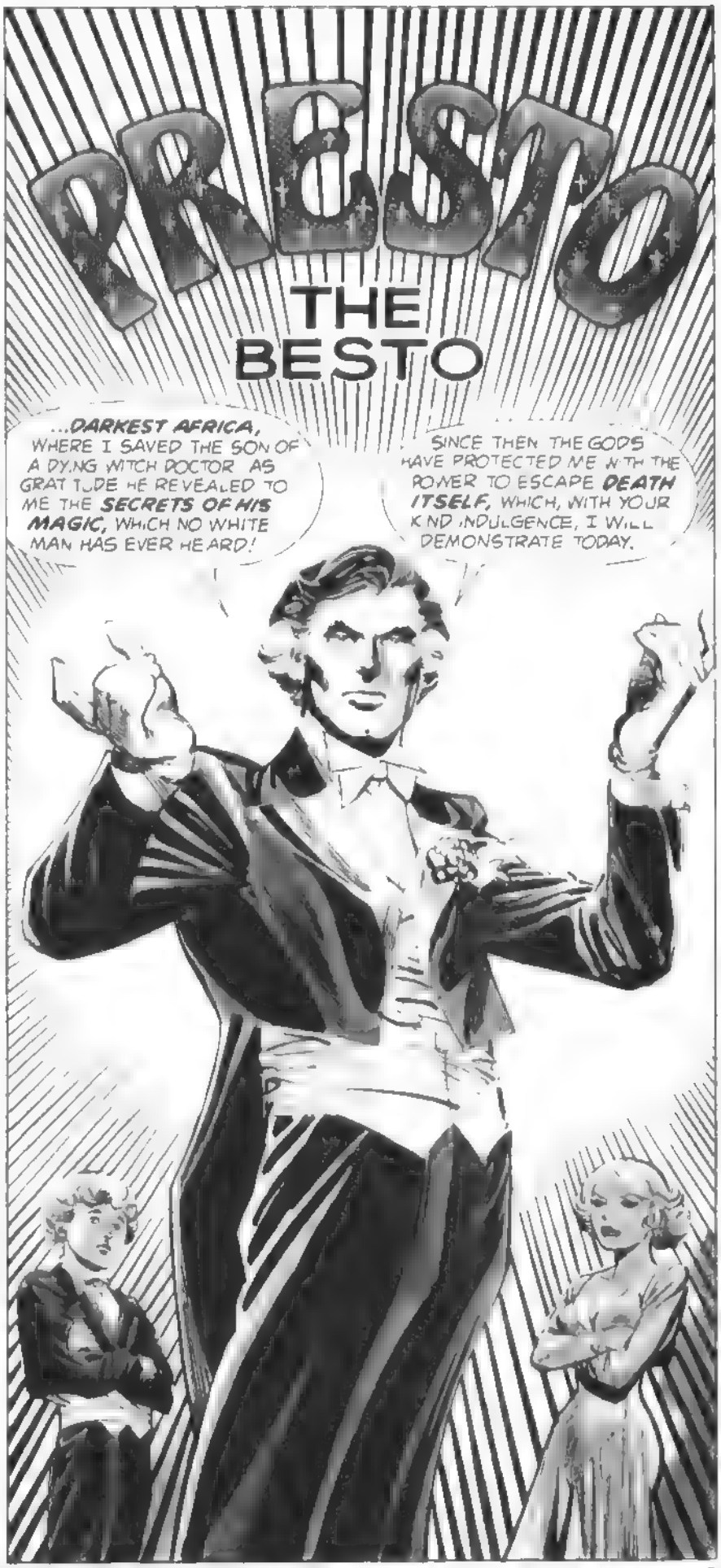
...SO I FIGGERED WHUT-THE-HELL, 'COURSE I DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN' LIKE THET IN FRONT A GAFF...
...BUT OLE SCRATCH...WELL, HE JEST SMILED AT ME SORT'A FUNNY LIKE AN' IT MADE ME REAL COLD INSIDE. I AIN'T NEVER THOUGHT NOTHIN' LIKE THET EVER AGAIN...!
H-HERE'S OUR WAGER!

...GAFF RUBBED HIS OLD WITHERED HANDS IN MUH HAIR AN' HE WUZ OFF AN' RUNNIN'.!
...HE WON MONEY JEST AS FAST AS SCRATCH COULD MAKE SOME MORE AN' FER YA KNOWED IT WE MUSTA WON MILLIONS...
WELL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE WON AGAIN, GAFFER! ANOTHER BET?
YEW KNOWS IT, 'PAL', I'M'A TAKIN' YA TA THE CLEANERS! HAHAHA!
...AN' HE WUZ HIS OLE SELF AGAIN...
...BUT THET DIDN'T LAST LONG...!
PURTTY SOON HE STARTED LOSIN'...AN' LOSIN' BIG... SO, FER LONG WE'D LOST EVERTHIN' ... EVEN MUH QUARTER...!
HAHAHA! YOU LOSE AGAIN, GAFFER, AND THAT DOES IT! I'VE WIPED YOU OUT!
NO IT DON'T, SNAKE IN THE GRASS! I GOT ONE MORE BET TA MAKE...
..I BET HIS SOUL!
..HUH...G-GAFF ...I...I...
HAHAHA! EXCELLENT!
I LOOKED AT GAFF AN' I LOOKED AT SCRATCH AN' I FIGGERED HE MUSTA KNOWED IT WOULD COME TA THIS...
...I SWALLERED AIR AN' SHUT MUH EYES WHEN I HEERD THET WHEEL A'SPINNIN' FER ONE LAST TIME AN' THE LAST THING I SAW WUZ GAFF A GRINNIN' FRUM EAR-TA-EAR AN' HE GAVE ME A WINK FRUM ONE'A HIS DANCIN' EYES...
..THET WHEEL MUST'A SPUN ROUND AN' ROUND FEREVER AN I HEERD GAFF A SAYIN THET MUH SOUL WUZ SURELY WORTH MORE IN JEST MONEY AN' HOW HE WANTED HIS SOUL BACK AN THREE WISHES BESIDES IF'N HE WUZ TA WIN... AN' NO SOONER'N OLE SCRATCH GLEEFULLY AGREED THEN I HEERD THE GOD-AWFULLEST WHOOPIN' AN' HOLLERIN' AN' CUSSIN'...
OWWW! MY TAIL! YOU STEPPED ON MY TAIL. YOU YOU CHEAT!
JEST A'MAKIN' SHORE YA RUN AN' HONEST GAME, 'PAL'! NOW PAY UP...CUZ WE WON!
...AN' THE NEXT THING I KNOWED WE WUZ BACK AT THE CARNY...
YA DID IT, GAFF! EVEN THE DEVIL COULDN'T PULL NO SHAM ON YOU!
WATCHA GONNA WISH FER, GAFF? MONEY? DIAMONDS? MEBBE PRESIDENT, HUH GAFF?
WELLLL...
...THEN HE PULLED OUT HIS WADDED UP HANDKERCHIEF AN' PEERED AT THE BLOOD RED SUNRISE AN' WIPED HIS ROUGH, AGE ROCKED FOREHEAD AN' CLEARED HIS THROAT AN' SCRATCHED AT HIS STUBBLE OF A BEARD AN'...
...AN' I SHUT UP. 'CAUSE LIKE GAFF ALLAYS SAID, IT DON'T DO A GUY NO GOOD TA STEW. IT SHORELY DON'T...!

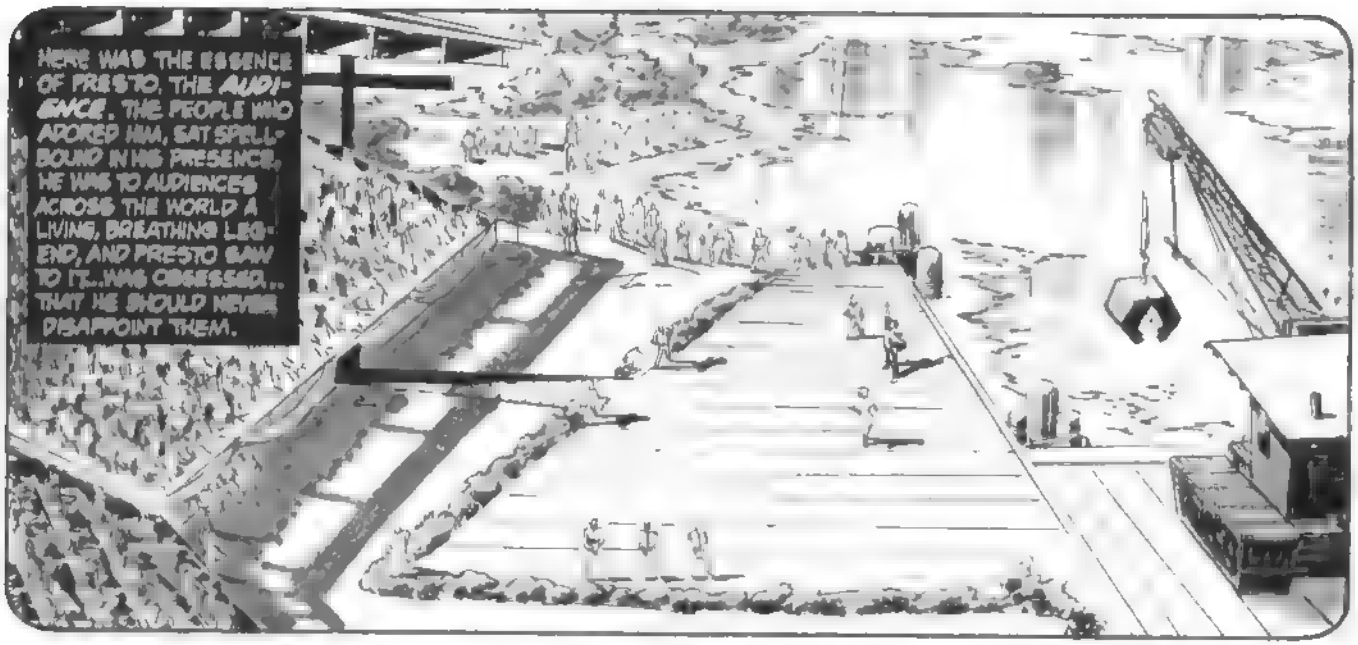
END

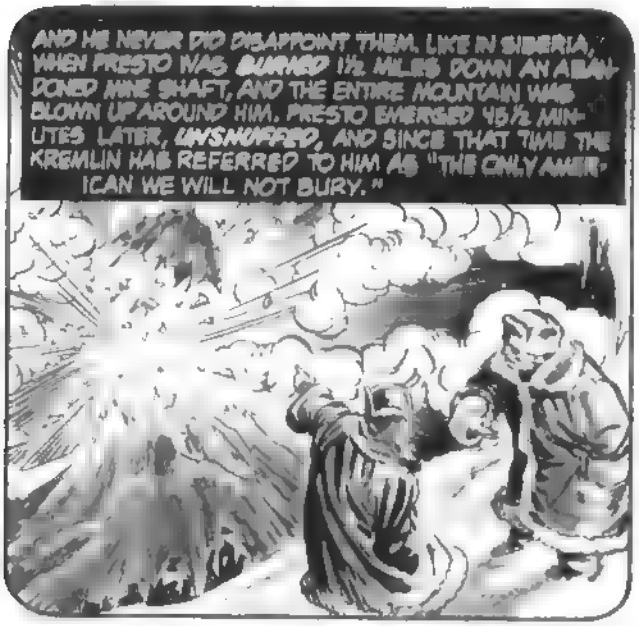






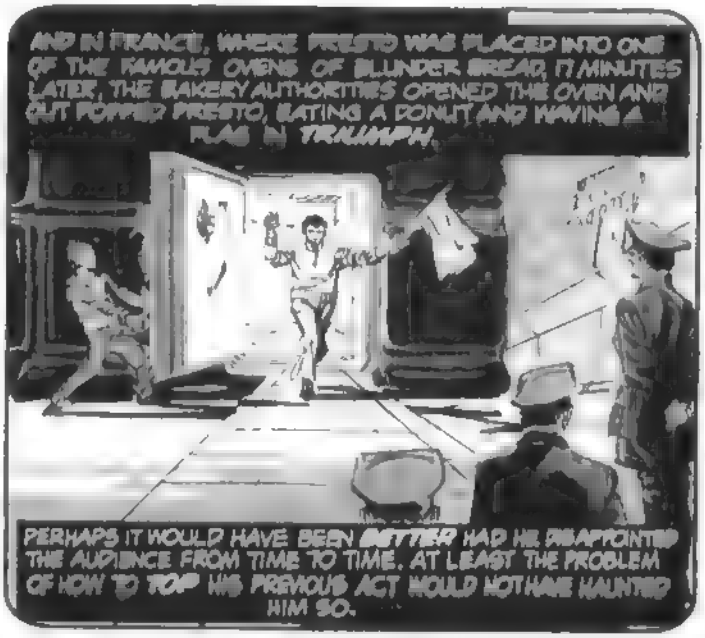
STORY JIM STENSTRUM ART CARMINE INFANTINO AND DICK GIORDANO


HERE WAS THE ESSENCE OF PRESTO. THE *AUDIENCE*. THE PEOPLE WHO ADORED HIM, SAT SPELLBOUND IN HIS PRESENCE. HE WAS TO AUDIENCES ACROSS THE WORLD A LIVING, BREATHING LEGEND, AND PRESTO SAW TO IT...WAS OBSESSED... THAT HE SHOULD NEVER DISAPPOINT THEM.


AND HE NEVER DID DISAPPOINT THEM. LIKE IN SIBERIA, WHEN PRESTO WAS *BURIED* 1½ MILES DOWN AN ABANDONED MINE SHAFT, AND THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN WAS BLOWN UP AROUND HIM. PRESTO EMERGED 45½ MINUTES LATER, *UNSCATHED*, AND SINCE THAT TIME THE KREMLIN HAS REFERRED TO HIM AS "THE ONLY AMERICAN WE WILL NOT BURY."

OR AT MARINELAND, WHERE PRESTO, CHAINED AND MANACLED, WAS *SWALLOWED* WHOLE BY A KILLER *WHALE*. ELAPSED TIME FOR THIS ESCAPE WAS 27¼ MINUTES, BEATING BY A CONSIDERABLE MARGIN THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR A WHALE ESCAPE HELD BY A FELLOW IN THE BIBLE.

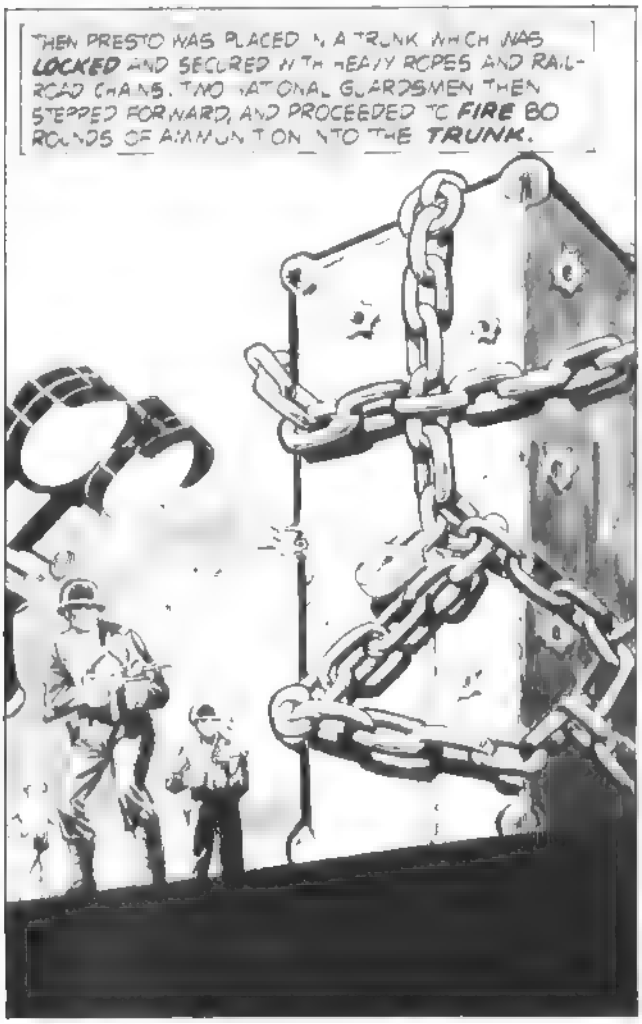
OR IN KENYA, WHERE PRESTO WAS *SEALED* INSIDE AN OVERSIZED MILKCAN, AND THEN *CRUSHED* UNDER THE FEET OF A BULL ELEPHANT UNTIL THE CAN RESEMBLED LITTLE MORE THAN A SHEET OF ALUMINUM FOIL. PRESTO EMERGED FROM THIS IN 12 MINUTES...BUT NOT FLAT, BUT ON THE BUTTON.


AND IN FRANCE, WHERE PRESTO WAS PLACED INTO ONE OF THE FAMOUS OVENS OF BLUNDER BREAD, 17 MINUTES LATER, THE BAKERY AUTHORITIES OPENED THE OVEN AND OUT POPPED PRESTO, EATING A DONUT AND WAVING A FLAG IN *TRIUMPH*.
PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN *BETTER* HAD HE DISAPPOINTED THE AUDIENCE FROM TIME TO TIME. AT LEAST THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO *TOP* HIS PREVIOUS ACT WOULD NOT HAVE HAUNTED HIM SO.

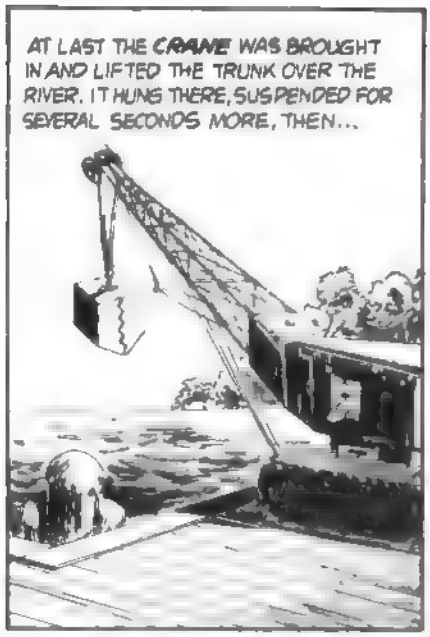
I WAS WITH PRESTO ON THAT DAY IN 1973, AT THE CHARITY FAIR IN CAT CALL SOUTH CAROLINA. MOTHER AND I WERE ASSISTING PRESTO IN WHAT WAS TO BE HIS FAREWELL PERFORMANCE...HIS GREATEST ESCAPE EVER. PRESTO, AT AGE 64, WAS GOING OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY, AND NOTHING MOM OR I COULD SAY WOULD PREVENT IT.
SHOULDN'T
AND DIS-APPOINT THE

IT BEGAN, FIRST, PRESTO WAS LOCKED INTO SEVERAL SETS OF HANDCUFFS, THEN TIED AND HIS FEET MANACLED. THEN HE WAS BLINDFOLDED, AND HIS HEAD ENTIRELY WRAPPED IN SHEETS OF RUBBER BUT FOR A SMALL HOLE THROUGH WHICH HE COULD BREATHE THROUGH A SNORKLE DEVICE.

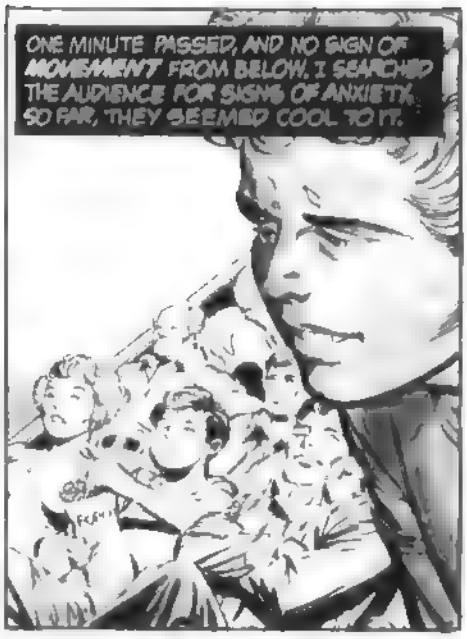
NEXT, HIS BODY WAS WRAPPED IN WET RAWHIDE, FASTENED WITH CHAINS AND NYLON CORDS. AND ALL THIS WAS THEN VACUUM-PACKED IN INDESTRUCTIBLE PLASTIC BY A MAN FROM OSCAR MEYER.


THEN PRESTO WAS PLACED IN A TRUNK WHICH WAS LOCKED AND SECURED WITH HEAVY ROPES AND RAIL-ROAD CHAINS. TWO NATIONAL GUARDSMEN THEN STEPPED FORWARD, AND PROCEEDED TO FIRE 80 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION INTO THE TRUNK.

LASTLY, THROUGH ONE OF THE BULLET HOLES, A FUNNEL WAS PLACED AND INTO THE TRUNK WAS POURED GALLONS OF QUICK-DRYING CEMENT. THIS WAS ALLOWED TO HARDEN AND WE WERE READY FOR THE NEXT PHASE.

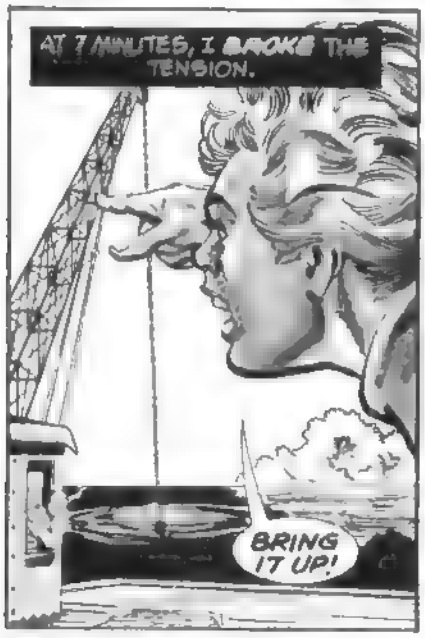

AT LAST THE CRANE WAS BROUGHT IN AND LIFTED THE TRUNK OVER THE RIVER. IT HUNG THERE, SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL SECONDS MORE, THEN...

...WAS RELEASED, TO SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE BLACK, WATERY UNKNOWN.
SPASH!


ONE MINUTE PASSED, AND NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT FROM BELOW. I SEARCHED THE AUDIENCE FOR SIGNS OF ANXIETY. SO FAR, THEY SEEMED COOL TO IT.

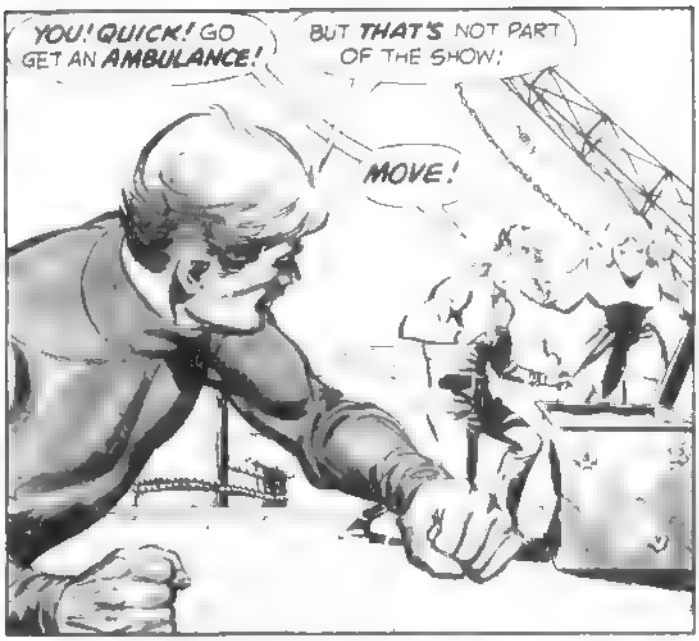
3 MINUTES, AND STILL NO MOVEMENT FROM BELOW. IT WAS AN OLD AND TIRED MAN DOWN THERE, FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO STAY ALIVE. MOM DREW CLOSE TO ME, HOLDING MY HAND.

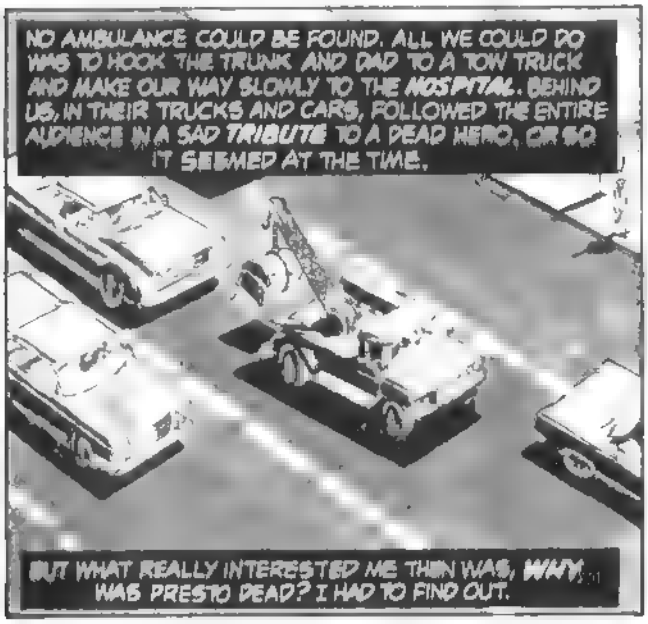
5 MINUTES, AND I KNEW HIS AIR WAS NEARLY GONE. MY STOMACH WAS IN KNOTS, YET STILL THE AUDIENCE SEEMED PASSIVE TO THE DRAMA, AS IF THEY KNEW SOMETHING I DID NOT.


AT 7 MINUTES, I BROKE THE TENSION.
BRING IT UP!

GET THESE CHAINS OFF! COME ON! MOVE IT! MOVE IT!

OH, JIMMY... HE'S DEAD!
IS THAT WHAT THAT LOOK IS? DEAD? YEECH!


YOU! QUICK! GO GET AN AMBULANCE!
BUT THAT'S NOT PART OF THE SHOW!
MOVE!


NO AMBULANCE COULD BE FOUND. ALL WE COULD DO WAS TO HOOK THE TRUNK AND DAD TO A TOW TRUCK AND MAKE OUR WAY SLOWLY TO THE HOSPITAL. BEHIND US, IN THEIR TRUCKS AND CARS, FOLLOWED THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE IN A SAD TRIBUTE TO A DEAD HERO, OR SO IT SEEMED AT THE TIME.
BUT WHAT REALLY INTERESTED ME THEN WAS, WHY WAS PRESTO DEAD? I HAD TO FIND OUT.

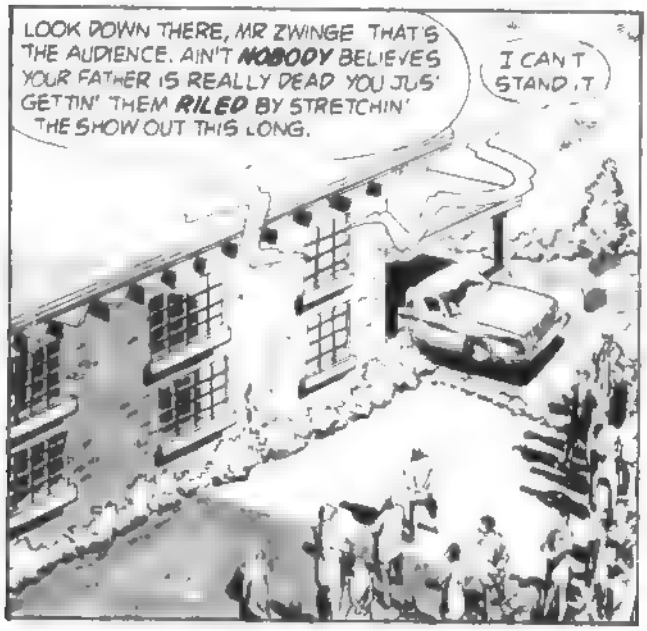
THAT'S WHAT I SAID, SHERIFF! MURDER!
NOTHING HAS EVER GONE WRONG IN THE ACT BEFORE THIS SOMEBODY DELIBERATELY SABOTAGED OUR ACT AND MURDERED MY FATHER.
I DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION!

IT'S NO GOOD MR ZANGE. WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO.
Y'SEE WE KNOW ALL ABOUT PRESTO THE BESTO AND HOW AIN'T NUTHIN' KIN KILL HIM! SO F'YER THINKIN' TO TELL THE NEXT TOWN HOW YOU FOOLED THEM IN CATCALL, IT AIN'T GONNA WORK!
WE JUS' NOT THET STUPID!

'LESS, OF COURSE, YOU'D BE WILLING TO PUT YOUR HUSBAND THROUGH AN AUTOPSY
AUTOP--
JUS' TO BE SURE, MA'AM YOU UNDERSTAND.

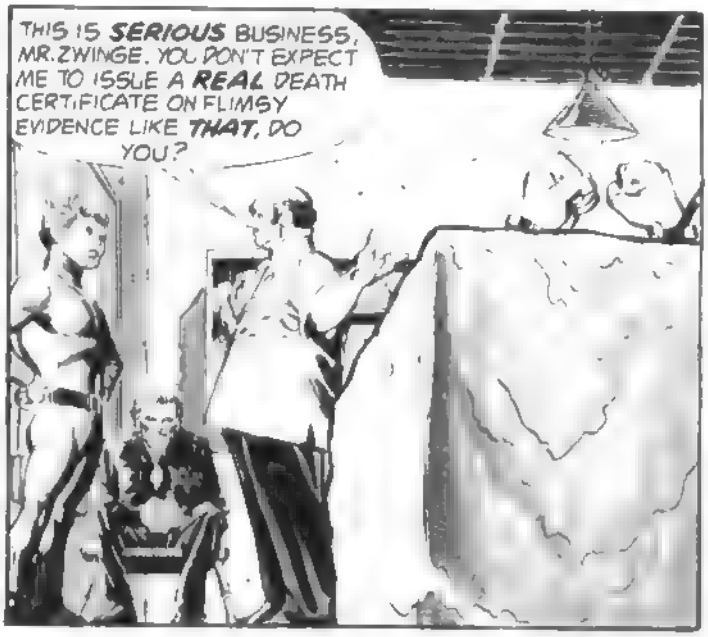
AT THE CORONER'S..
WHAT'S THE VERDICT, LYLE?
WELL, ROY, NORMALLY I'D SAY THIS FELLER DIED OF SUFFOCATION, LACERATIONS, STRANGULATION, DROWNING, AND A SEVERE CASE OF BULLET HOLES.
NORMALLY I'D SAY THAT...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WELL, WE KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, DON'T WE?


LOOK DOWN THERE, MR ZWINGE THAT'S THE AUDIENCE. AIN'T NOBODY BELIEVES YOUR FATHER IS REALLY DEAD YOU JUS' GETTIN' THEM RILED BY STRETCHIN' THE SHOW OUT THIS LONG.
I CAN'T STAND IT

LISTEN. FORGET THE INVESTIGATION! JUST LET MY MOTHER AND ME TAKE THE BODY AND GET IT BURIED. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
DANDY! AND LYLE WILL EVEN WRITE UP A TEMPORARY DEATH CERTIFICATE TO HURRY UP THE SHOW!

TEMPORARY DEATH CERTIFICATE!! ROARRR!!


THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS, MR. ZWINGE. YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO ISSUE A REAL DEATH CERTIFICATE ON FLIMSY EVIDENCE LIKE THAT, DO YOU?

CERTAINLY THERE WAS NO TALKING TO THESE TOWNSPEOPLE. OUR ONE OPTION WAS TO BEAT IT OUT OF TOWN, MOM AND I, WITH DAD IN THE BACK SEAT.
YOU WEREN'T SNEAKIN' OUT ON US, WERE YUH?
WE'RE GOING BACK TO NEW YORK SHERIFF. WE'RE BRINGING DAD HOME TO BE BURIED.

'FRAID I CAN'T ALLOW THET, MR ZWINGE. YOUR FATHER STAYS HERE UNTIL HE PAYS BACK THE MONEY HE OWES THE AUDIENCE, ORGIES THEM SATISFACTION BY FINISHING HIS ACT
BUT THE SHOW WAS FOR CHARITY. MY HUSBAND DID IT FOR NOTHING!

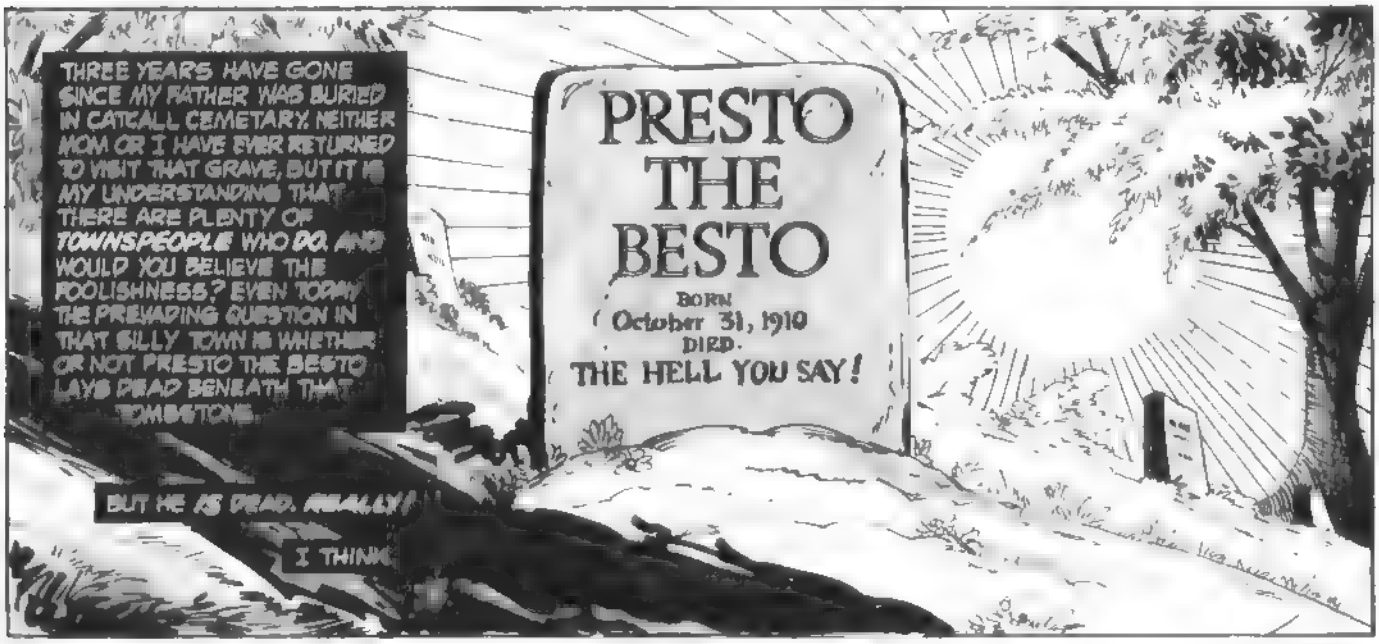
THEN HE'D BETTER GIVE US SATISFACTION, HADN'T HE?
HE HAD SHERIFF. HE SURELY HAD
HADN'T HE?

SO WE STAYED IN CATCALL. DAD DID, ANYWAY. A LEGAL ORDINANCE HAD BEEN PASSED THAT SAID DAD COULD NOT LEAVE TOWN WITHOUT FINISHING HIS SHOW. AND THE WHOLE TOWN WAITED FOR THAT... WAITED RIGHT UP TO THE FUNERAL IN CATCALL CEMETARY.
ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST. AMEN.
AND JUST A PERSONAL NOTE. IF PRESTO WOULD STOP HIS FOOLIN' AROUND AND FINISH UP THIS TINHORN HULLABALOO, I'M SURE THE LAWD WOULD FORGIVE HIS NO GOOD YANKEE BLOOD FOR STRETCHIN' THIS SHOW PAST EVEN A SAINT'S GOOD PATIENCE.
TELL M REV.
HEAR, HEAR!

ARE YOU COMING, JIMMY?
IN A MINUTE, MOM. I'LL BE ALONG

YOU AIN'T JUST KIDDING, ARE YOU, DAD?
I MEAN, WE'RE LEAVING NOW. WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

WELL, LISTEN. HERE'S WHERE WE'LL BE IN NEW YORK. FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, IF YOU NEED ANYTHING...MONEY, WHATEVER.. BE SURE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US.
WRITE, ANYWAY.
GOTTA GO NOW, DAD. SO LONG.


THREE YEARS HAVE GONE SINCE MY FATHER WAS BURIED IN CATCALL CEMETARY. NEITHER MOM OR I HAVE EVER RETURNED TO VISIT THAT GRAVE, BUT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF TOWNSPEOPLE WHO DO. AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE THE FOOLISHNESS? EVEN TODAY THE PREVAILING QUESTION IN THAT SILLY TOWN IS WHETHER OR NOT PRESTO THE BESTO LAYS DEAD BENEATH THAT TOMBSTONE.
PRESTO THE BESTO
BORN October 31, 1910
DIED THE HELL YOU SAY!
BUT HE IS DEAD. REALLY!
I THINK

END

FRIGHT FILMS REGULAR & SUPER 8

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN

High in the Carpathian Mountains, a mad scientist works to revive the Frankenstein monster. And he succeeds, in time for the living corpse to do battle with a rampant wolfman. Lightning, fangs, and action galore. Fight between the monsters is one of horror filmdoms finest. Stars Lugosi as Frankenstein, and Chaney as Wolfman. #2227 $9.95 SUPER 8 ONLY

DOOM OF DRACULA

Boris Karloff portrays a carnival owner who locates the remains of Count Dracula. He brings the vampire back to life, and sends him on an utterly diabolical mission. Soon, however, Karloff realizes he has made a mustake, as Dracula turns on him! John Carradine plays Dracula. Sequel is "House of Frankenstein" film. #2246 $9.95

THE INVISIBLE MAN

This is it! The original motion picture featuring HG Wells classic character. This effort introduced the great Claude Raines to the industry. Startling special effects by John P. Fulton, which show man who becomes transparent due to scientific experiments. A chilling, absorbing film, one of the all-time greats. #2237/$9.95

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Follow-up feature to "Doom of Dracula." Karloff stars as scientist disguised as Carny owner who's journeying the world over in search of the Frankenstein monster. And finally he finds it... returning it to life. But then, trouble! For the Wolfman arrives on the scene to destroy the doctor and his new patient. #2247 $9.95 Sup 8 only

THE "ORIGINAL" MUMMY

One of Karloff's most memorable performances, one of the great horror films. Excavation in Egypt uncovers tomb of Mummy Im-ho-tep. That night, he comes back to life. After murdering one of the scientists, the bandaged beast makes for London. There, he seeks the reincarnation of his one-time Egyptian mistress. Film is Im-ho-TOPS! #2224 $9.95

THE MUMMY'S GHOST

Here is an exciting sequel to "The Mummy." Lon Chaney portrays the man of rotted cloth, as he terrorizes a scientific gathering about his sacred sarcophagus. And as fate would have it, he falls for the young lady scientist who is a part of this expedition. This Mummy is more brutal, more deadly than the Karloff one. #2269/$9.95

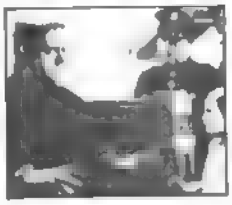
FRANKENSTEIN'S NEW BRAIN

The flawed criminal brain of the monster is removed and into the huge body Igor's brain is inserted. He speaks, moves and all seems well until the monster goes blind. In a rage he wrecks his creator's lab! Scary! #22087 $9.95

I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF

One of the most popular monster movies in history. A young boy visits a psychiatrist for to solve his various hang-ups. But the doctor himself, is deranged, and hypnotizes the boy. Under hypnosis, the young man is convinced by the psychiatrist that he is a werewolf! Then it's off to kill far the doctor! #2221/$9.95

THE TRIAL OF FRANKENSTEIN



The famous Frankenstein monster is revived in an amazing fashion via a brain transplant. Igor, the hunchback, gives his brain to the creature. This film is taken from the classical movie "Ghost of Frankenstein." #22086 $9.95

RETURN OF DRACULA

Dracula is back, in the form of actor Charles Lederer. The Count moves into a small, isolated town and begins to live as a parasite, sucking the blood of the plain country folk around him. All goes well... until the infamous monster is found out... and hunted. One of the most unusual Dracula films ever produced. A must. #2273/$9.95

MAN-MADE MONSTER

A team-up of two great horror actors. Lionel Atwill portrays a mad scientist, and Lon Chaney, a truck driver killed in an accident. Atwill discovers the body and through the use of high-voltage electricity, brings Chaney back to life. But the truck driver is no longer human. He's become an electric monstrosity! #2264 $9.95

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

A classic of filmmaking. The second filming of Hugo's immortal novel stars Charles Laughton as the horribly misshapen hunchback called Quasimodo. This brilliant film tells of the beast's love for a beauty, The gypsy Esmeralda. And the horrors that befall the young girl in the France of yore. A sensitive monster movie. #2238 $9.95 SUPER 8 ONLY

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA

Many fans of horror films consider Christopher Lee the finest screen Dracula. And in this film his awesome talent is in evidence. Tall, violent, and menacing, Lee is the immortal count. Here he travels from Transylvania to London. His plan is to ravage four respectable families in the great city. And this he does, brutally! #2265/$9.95

STRAIT-JACKET

Joan Crawford, star of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" joined with "Rosemary's Baby" Bill Castle to create this modern-day horror classic. This film is not for the faint-hearted as it is about a series of brutal axe-murders. Is Crawford victim or killer? Warning: vicious axe-killings appear in this film. A real shocker! #2266/$9.95

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS

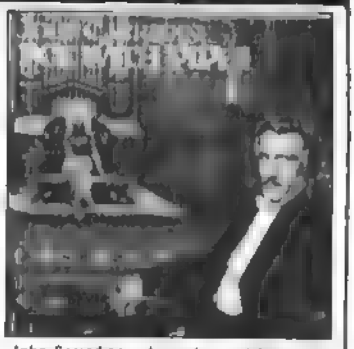
Peter Lorre stars in this incredible film of a concert pianist. So far, not very frightening. But when he is possessed by devilish madness his gentle hands become instruments of vile murder. And then is unleashed the incredible Beast With Five Fingers. Lorre at his horrific best with a fine supporting cast. #2230/$9.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

FANTASTICAL LP RECORD ALBUMS!

Remember the 1960's and HIGH CAMP in Super Heroes? Well, we've managed to get a special limited supply of this rare comedy record, a Rock Super-Hero Suite suited for the strictly straight jacket set! Lots (and acres & parking spaces) of lunatic laughter #2337 COMIC BOOK HEROES $5.98

THE NOISY ROOM SUDDENLY GROWS QUIET AS THE RADIO VOLUME IS TURNED HIGHER. A GUNSHOT'S ROAR EXPLODES FROM THE SPEAKER, FOLLOWED BY A SCREAM AS ANOTHER THRILLING EPISODE BEGINS. WITH NO MORE EFFORT THEN LISTENING, YOU CAN BE ENTERTAINED BY THE MOST EXCITING ADVENTURES EVER KNOWN. RECREATE THE TALES OF SUPERMAN, BUCK ROGERS, THE LONE RANGER, THE SHADOW, ETC. IN THE FINEST PORTABLE STUDIO IN EXISTENCE—YOUR OWN IMAGINATION!



John Carradine, whose deep, chilling voice has made him a legend in horror film, now narrates the macabre master of terror on the written page Edgar Allan Poe With an organ for background be prepared for an eerie evening of fear Conquer Worm, The Raven, others Poe With Pipes #2382 $4.98

Two 1940 radio programs The Oyster Diving episode, and the Black Jacket Episode, wherein Little Annie, and Sandy, and good ol' Ovaltine win out against the death-dealing evil crooks! And she had the first of all ARF-ro hairdo's, too! Believe it! Order it! Get LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE #2327 $6.95

The Celebrated Case of the Firebug Murders Villain is Hotfoot, who boasts "That's the end of Tracy, boys! We won't hear of him again!" Ha! Even YOU should have better than that, Hotfoot, you sulfurous heel! Actual authentic old-time radio broadcast! Collectors, get DICK TRACY #2332 $6.95

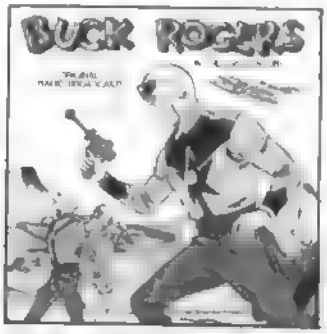
VOLUME ONE of two Jack Benny crawls out of his vault to help you re-live (or maybe live for the first time) THE SHADOW, THE LONE RANGER MA PERKINS, and hilarious FRED ALLEN bits A musty nostalgic must for old radio buffs! Order GREAT MOMENTS IN RADIO VOL 1 #2339 $3.98

VOLUME TWO of two Original broadcasts of GANGBUSTERS, TERRY AND THE PIRATES, BING CROSBY and on the spot coverage of the Dempsey-Tunney fight, plus more! A fine entertainment package. Don't miss these radio classics GREAT MOMENTS IN RADIO VOL 2 #2340 $3.98

Here's 2 complete radio shows The Masked Man and trusty Tonto help a meek bank accountant beat a barrelful of bank embezzlers and then protect the Telegraph Company from the wild Indians Great action, sound effects Ancient commercials Ride again with the LONE RANGER #2330 $6.95

Two full radio adventures from 1948! Cap retrieves jewels of the Queen of Sheba and his Secret Squadron fights a lost landful of cavemen and prehistoric monsters! The old breakfast drink commercials alone are worth the price of the record Old classic radio at best. CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT #2331 $6.95

Superman's complete origin story, from old Krypton all the way to the Daily Planet building Hear him go whoosh through the unpolluted nostalgic air, and help the War Effort by fighting the vile and evil railroad saboteur Good ol radio chills thud & blunder SUPERMAN #2328 $6.95



Futuristic Nostalgia, this! Buck Rogers and his gal, Wilma Deering in the 25th Century as they fight Black Bart the arch-villain from Mars, and monkey around with a super-scientific "Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator!" Learn that space ships didn't happen till 24th Century BUCK ROGERS #2329 $6.95

THE MALTESE FALCON was a jinxed statuette that brought death to thousands, riches to Dashiell Hammett and fame to Bogey! Humphrey Bogart stars in another Hammett yarn 'Love's Lovely Counterfeit' Two super radio adaptations from the 1940's A bargain! MALTESE FALCON #2334 $6.95

BORIS KARLOFF! In the greatest evil comedy of all time Arsenic & Old Lace Bela Lugosi shines darkly in The Dr Prescribes Death, a fiendish melodrama, too! A super-bargain MUST for collectors of horror and horrific humor A hilarious and terrifying duo ARSENIC AND OLD LACE #2335 $6.95

"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" Better believe that Lamont (THE SHADOW) Cranston does, as he takes on a whole coven of evil wizards in the radio adventure "The Ears of Pan!" A masterpiece of nostalgic 1940's gothic mystery-horror Order THE SHADOW #2326 $6.95

Sit back and relax to sounds of the howling wind, rattling chains, scraping fingernails on the insides of coffins maniacal laughter and all the other sweatily sweet sounds of a haunted house! Great fun for parties Frighten your friends A Halloween delight! #2341 SOUNDS TO MAKE YOU SHIVER! $4.98

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

HOME MOVIES SO GHASTLY... YOU WILL BE ASTONISHED!

BLACK ROOM

The amazing Boris Karloff, one of the finest "horror" actors of all times, stars in this fabulous fright flick A silent wonder! Who are these two lovlies so terrified of? Could it be Mr Karloff? What is the secret of the Black Room? A Black and White 200 Ft Reel, in Regular & Super 8mm film Order today! #2270. $9 95

DINOSAURUS

A real (living-breathing) cave man Tyrannosaurus Rex and Brontosaurus are discovered by a hard hat Doesn't he wish that he had never gotten involved? You bet! But in fact He lives to tell his entire stupendous tale! A Black and White movie-horror-great Don't miss this one! In Super 8mm film only Order #2283. $9 95

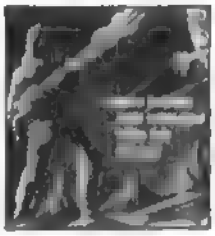
MASTERS OF TERROR

Robert Lansing has the starring role in this terrifying super home movie He is a scientist with a problem He uses his secret formula on himself after reacting in a fit of jealousy! See what happens to him and everyone else who is involved with the turned-mad-scientist! A fine Black & White film Super 8 only #2284 $9 95

THE BLOB

Can you believe that the fantastic Steve McQueen stars in this horror picture? He certainly does! It is Mr McQueen's best horror movie role There is a suspicious gobbling, bobbling blob on the rampage! An interstellar jelly A 200 ft reel of terror and thrills! Super 8 only A Black & White film sensation! #2285 $9 95

RADARMEN

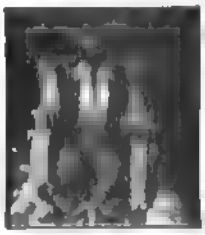


This film surely is an overwhelming spectacle involving a crew of American Rocketmen! They battle off hordes of nuclear-armed invaders from Where? You guessed it the Moon! Watch them fight for their lives! A rare tumultuous treat! (A NASA training film reject) Available in Super 8 only B&W 200 ft reel Buy now #2286 $9 95

BLACK WIDOW

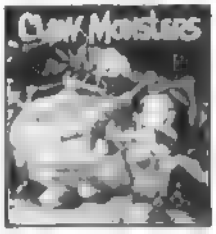
A very beautiful, deadly female spy from an Asiatic land uses the latest electronic equipment and devices to destroy people! She also uses her advantages to steal tremendous Atomic secrets! A highly interesting movie plot A picture to start you thinking! Black and White, in Super 8 mm 200 foot reels only #2287 $9 95

CAPTAIN MEPHISTO



Somewhere on a strange and mysterious isle a notoriously evil man uses atomic energy to transform himself He decides to become a fierce deadly pirate of 200 years gone by! What makes him decide on such a strange occupation? Purchase this exciting film and you'll find out! Black & White Super 8mm only Get #2288 $9 95

THE CLAW MONSTERS

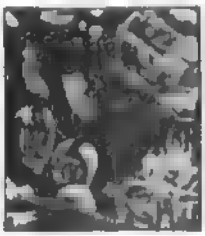


A very strangely warped scientist (isn't that the way most of them appear to be?) creates huge horrifyingly ugly Claw Monsters! He uses them in an attempt to ward off trespassers nearing his African diamond mine Do these monsters do their job? Only one way to know for sure Order Super 8 only Black & White #2290 $9 95

MASTER OF HORROR

Who else could it be but the one and only Edgar Allen Poe? His stories of horror are beyond all human belief! He is the master! This is a strange & weird shocker of a flick The Old Master's soul really corrodes this one of a kind movie This film is a definite must for all Poe freaks! B&W Super 8 only #2291 $9 95

BATTLE IN OUTER SPACE

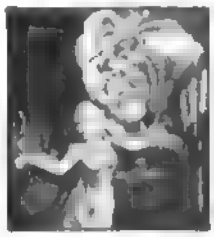


Astronauts, flying saucers from unknown planets rockets and super-fire ray guns can all be seen and enjoyed in this exciting futuristic fantasy space flick! Choose from Super or regular 8-Color film #22046 $19 95 or a Black and White version in Super or regular 8 mm film 200 ft reel #22049 $9 95 Either is superb!

CURSE OF THE MUMMY'S TOMB

Be careful of this vicious hand! This unusual creature is half bone Half bandage And all blood curdling terror! You must be strong to sit still while watching this terrifying flick! Do you dare buy it? Prove yourself! Choose either Super or regular 8 Color #22050 $19 95 Or in B&W in Super or regular 8 #22047 $9 95

THE VAMPIRE AND THE BALLERINA

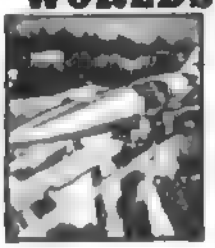


This is one of the strangest of all the Vampire films that were ever produced! Here is the strange truth The Undead infest not only one but all of the finest houses in Europe! Believe it! The Old World will never be the same after these creatures are finished with it! 200 ft reels in Super or regular 8 B&W #2275 $9 95

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE SPACE MONSTER

Frankenstein is a many faceted fellow in this movie an Astro-robot created by an American scientist suffers mechanical damages and becomes Frankenstein-like! He is put to the challenge The weird Space Monsters! Warning beware their stare! Who is the real hero? 200 ft reel B&W Super 8 regular 8 Buy #2280 $9 95

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE



Can this really be possible? What will be the outcome? A strange planet appears suddenly in Earth's telescopes and it is going to crash smack into our planet Earth! The scientists must act fast this time Everyone is in a mad chaotic state! Don't miss this film classic! In super 8mm only Black and White Order #22014 $9 95

WAR OF THE WORLDS

An H G Wells classic science-fiction thriller This Black and White movie is a Hell-spawned tale of a grandiose Martian invasion! No science fiction fan alive should miss this epic From space They are reaching for you! Order your 200 ft reel today Available in Super 8 mm film only Hurry waste no time! #22015 $9 95

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SUPER EXCITING BOOKS ARE GONNA GETCHA!

TERRORS OF THE SCREEN

Explore your way through this 122 page hard-cover history of horror film classics The movies are traced chronologically from their origin through the middle 1920's and early 1930's, with Lon Chaney and Boris Karloff And then into the fascinating 1950's and 1960's psychological terror films! A 9"x6" book, finely illustrated with over 50 terrific black and white still photos! #21148/$5.95

TO BE CONTINUED

Film buffs will adore this complete guide to 231 sound motion picture serials made between 1929 and 1955! Let your eyes upon, over 400 nostalgic photos A fine 11"x8 1 2" hardcover book that supplies the reader with complete data of studios, directors and casts of the serials You'll also be amazed by the complete filmography index! Order yours today! #21012 $9.95

THE FILMS OF BORIS KARLOFF

What a beauty of a book! 8 3/4"x11 1/4" hardcover, with over 400 fine movie pictures and candid photos Follow Karloff, reliving his extraordinary career in over 80 film roles and his extensive appearances on Broadway! Richard Bojarski & Kenneth Beals joined forces in recording over 50 years of Karloff's versatile file Order #21157/$12 00

CINEMA OF THE FANTASTIC

A 282 page hardcover 10"x7" volume that focuses exclusively on 15 horror and fantasy classics! Filmbook treatment is given to each film including cast listings, producers, technicians, directors, studio, plot scenes technical notes! Over 350 photos! Featured are Metropolis, Freaks, King Kong, Bride of Frankenstein, Flash Gordon, Thief of Baghdad Beauty and the Beast, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Forbidden Planet, others! #21008 $9.95

TARZAN OF THE MOVIES

A 11"x8½" soft-cover pictorial history of over 50 years of Tarzan films! To date, 14 actors have appeared as Tarzan in over 40 motion pictures! This book focuses on these films with over 430 photos and stills of the different Tarzans in action, from Elmo Lincoln on! Plus an immensely interesting and readable text and history of the Tarzan film and biographical information of creator, Edgar Rice Burroughs! Very complete! #21010 $5 95

FANTASTIC

IMAGINE A SELECTION OF NIGHTMARISH READING ADVENTURES THAT ARE TRULY BREATH TAKING!

START WITH THESE GREATS!

A MUST FOR COLLECTORS

HORROR/ FANTASY IN THE MOVIES

A deluxe 10"x7" hardcover book by film critic Tom Hutchinson 156 fact filled pages illustrated with black & white & color movie stills, lobby cards & posters! Book examines escape routes into fantasy thru science fiction and horror adventure films! Forward by Price! #21174/$4 98

THE GIRL IN THE HAIRY PAW

Here you have the ultimate reference book on one of the world's most admired and greatest films The Great King Kong lives again in scores of articles & photos censored & uncensored, from the great Ape's capture to the chilling climb atop the Empire State Building! With Fay Wray's acting triumph Sublime for film freaks! #21211/$5 95

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO COMIC BOOKS

Thousands of comic books are listed in this fascinating 7"x5" 264 page book Do you know what valuables you are selling & trading? They could be worth more than you thought! This is a very handy illustrated guide for the collector and the curious 8 full color pages Know the right price! Why not check it out? Order #21212 $5 00

FOCUS ON THE HORROR FILM

A fascinating 186 page 8"x5" soft-cover volume covering the history of the horror film! 26 separate articles discuss film styles from gothic to psychological terror under four categories The Horror Domain Gothic Horror, Monster Terror and Psychological Thriller! Photos! #21149 $2.95

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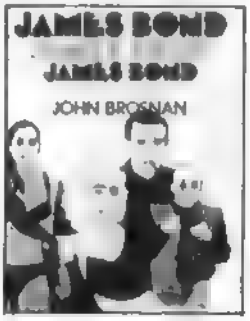

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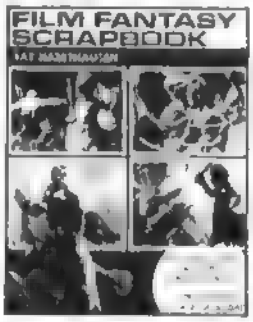

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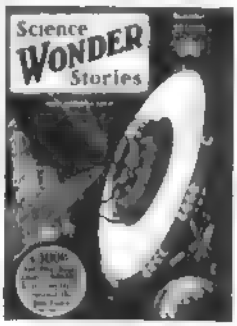

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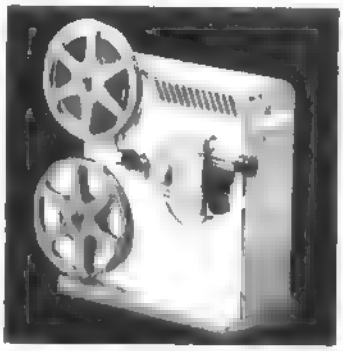

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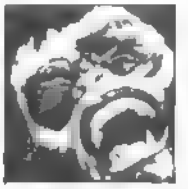

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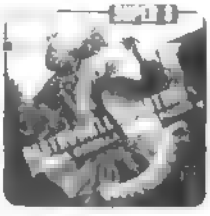

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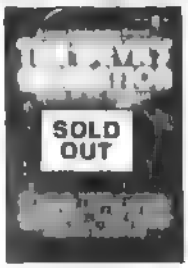

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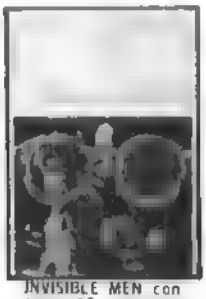

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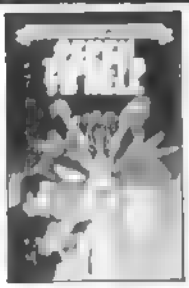

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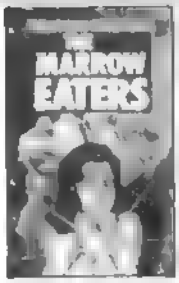

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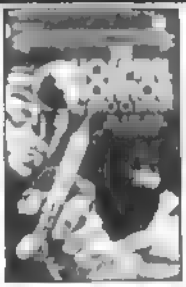

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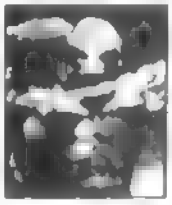

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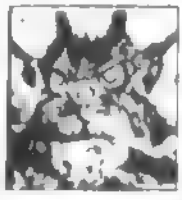

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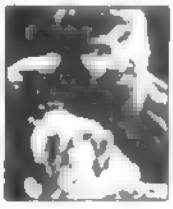

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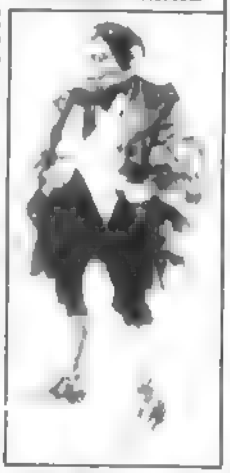

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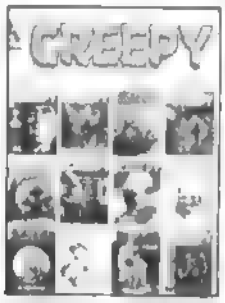

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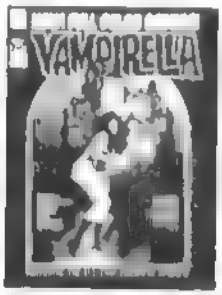

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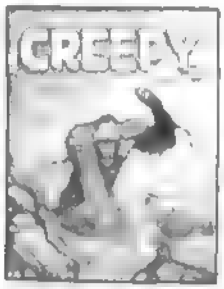

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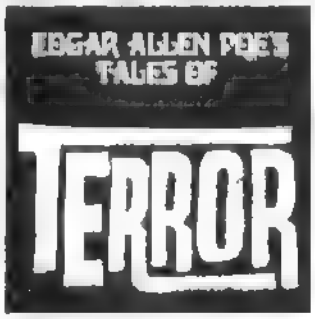

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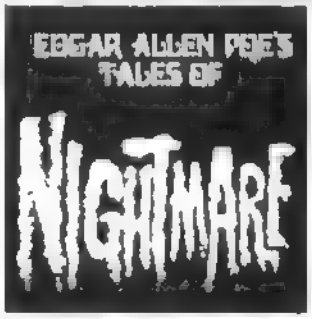

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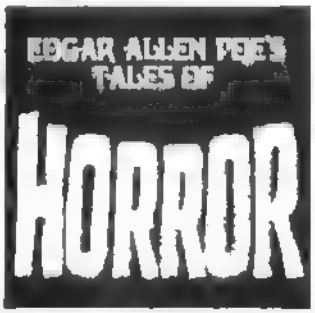

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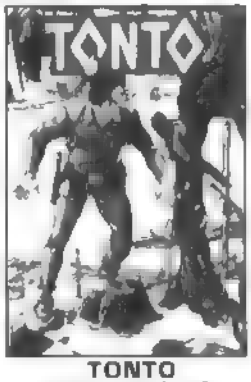

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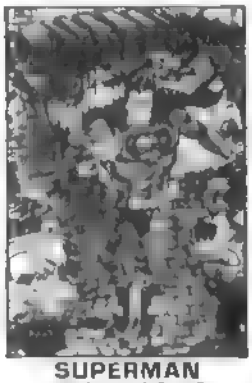

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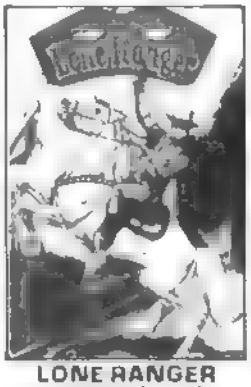

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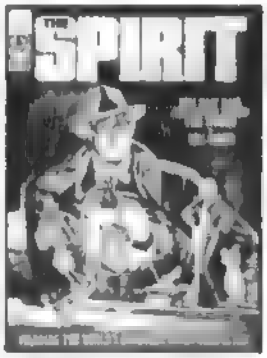
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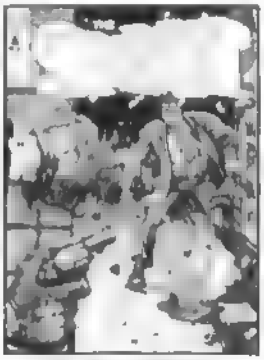
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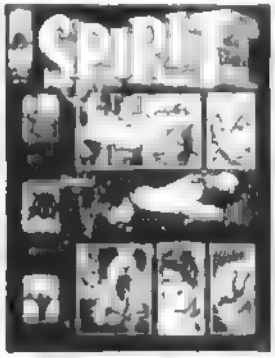
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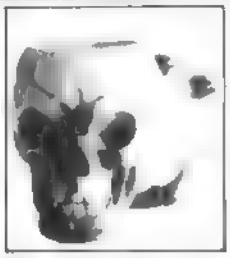

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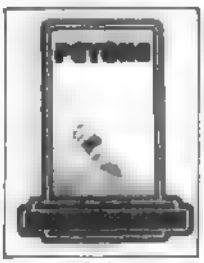

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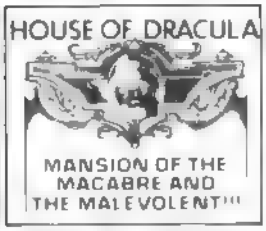

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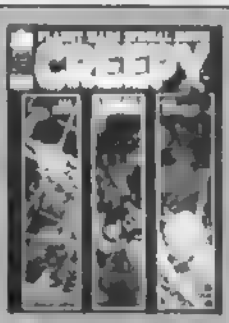

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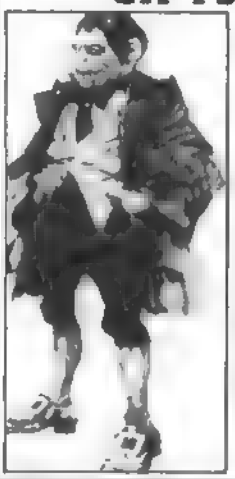

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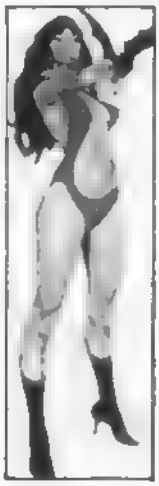

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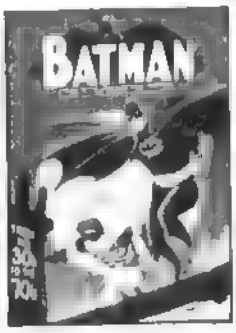

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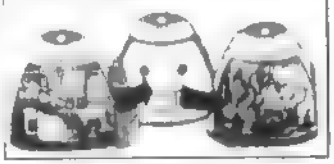

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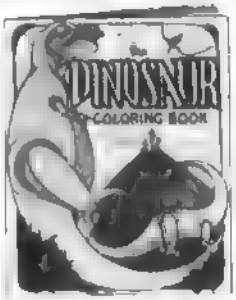

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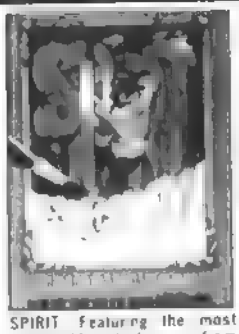

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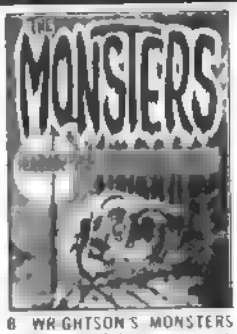

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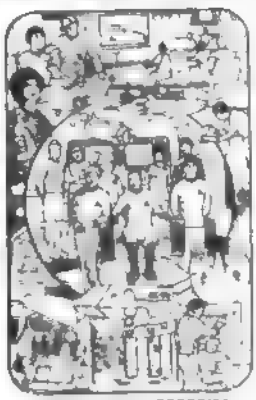

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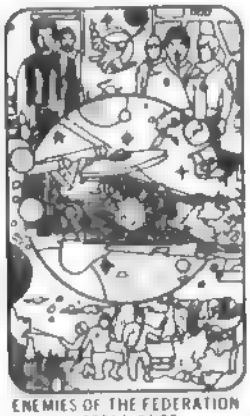

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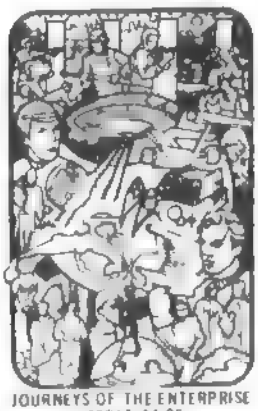

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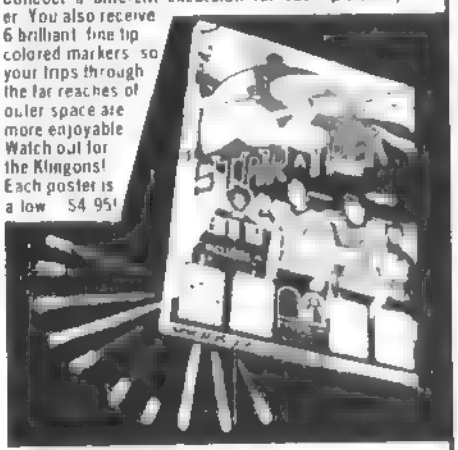

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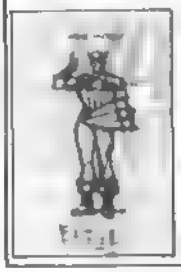

Also included are an in depth interview with Bob Kane and C C Beck who created Batman and Captain Marvel Will Eisner profile by Murphy Anderson Joe Simon article, with Simon and Kirby art Harvey Kurtzman and Little Annie Fanny this & more! 100 pgs 5 1 2 x 8 1 2" #21158 $3

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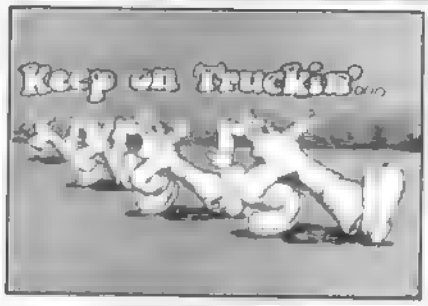

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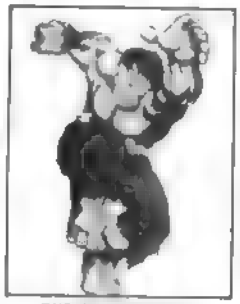

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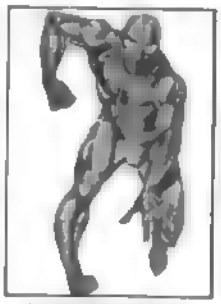

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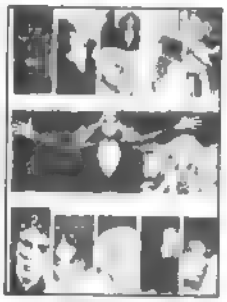

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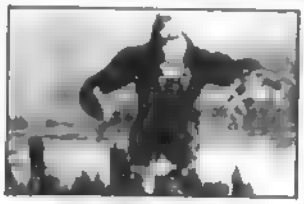

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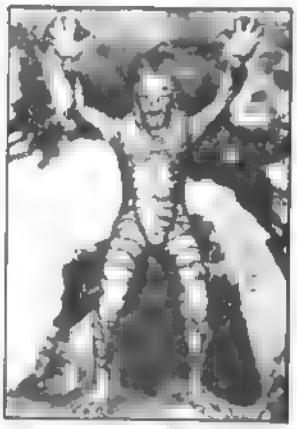

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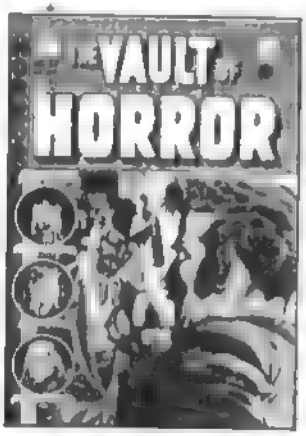

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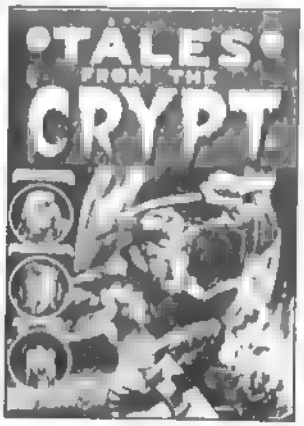

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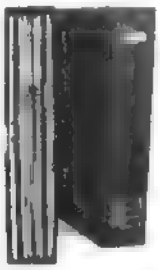

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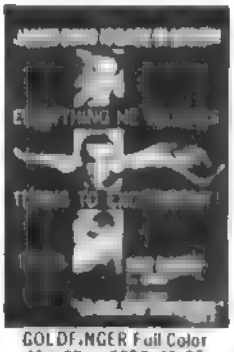

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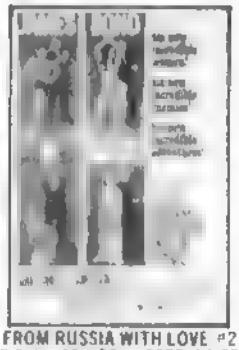

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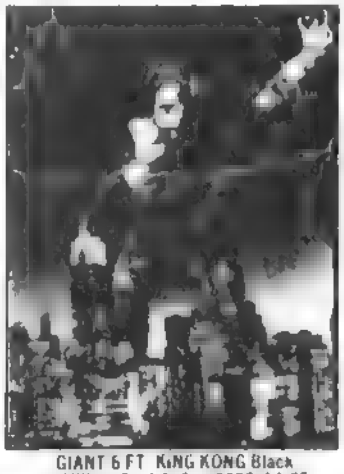

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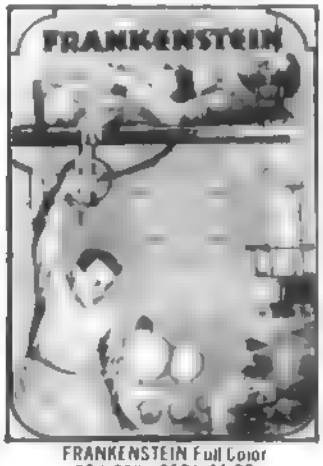

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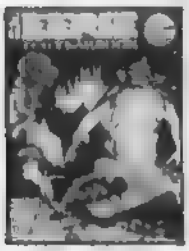
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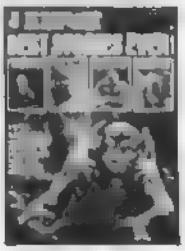
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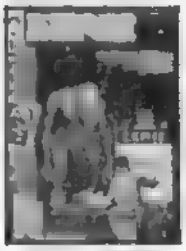
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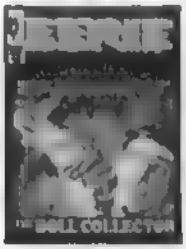

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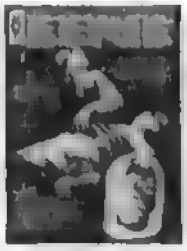
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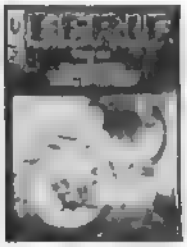
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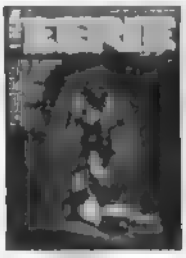
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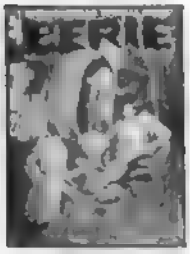
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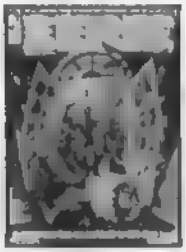
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EERIE #46
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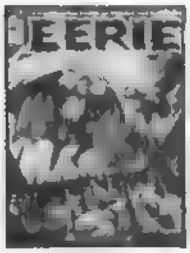
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EERIE #48
#1848 $2 50

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EERIE #58
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EERIE #59
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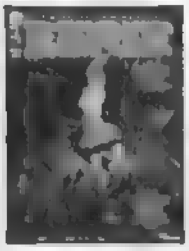
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EERIE #62
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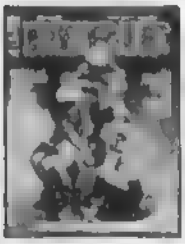
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EERIE #21
#1821 $4 00

EERIE #22
#1822 $4 00

EERIE #23
#1823 $4 00

EERIE #24
#1824 $3 75

EERIE #25
#1825 $3 75

EERIE #26
#1826 $3 75

EERIE #27
#1827 $3 75

EERIE #35
#1835 $3 25

EERIE #36
#1836 $3 25

EERIE #37
#1837 $3 00

EERIE #38
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EERIE #49
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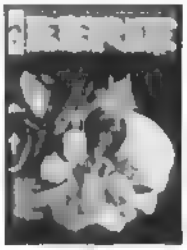
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EERIE #51
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#1852 $2 25

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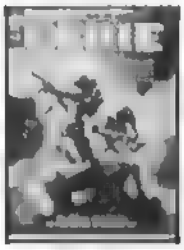
EERIE #63
#1863 $2 25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EERIE #65
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EERIE #67
#1867 $1 75

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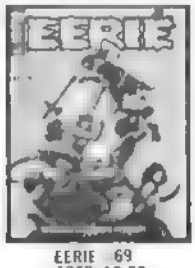
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EERIE #77
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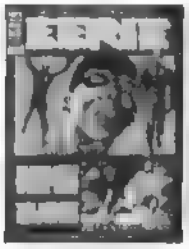
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EERIE #79
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EERIE #80
#1880 $1 75

EERIE #81
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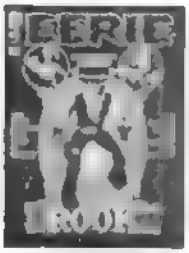
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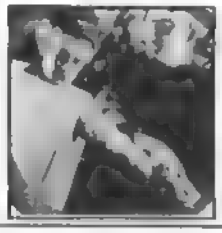
This shocker is really an unbelievable story Will you be able to withstand the terror that screams from the grave? The skeletons are rising up from their coffins! They want the power Power to rule! Will our mortal friends escape their angry clutches? You've got to see it to believe it! B&W Super and reg 8mm #2225 $9 95

BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN



Elsa Lanchester and (your favorite monster) Boris Karloff are the incredible starring actors in this very famous horror flick! Frightening and humorous, with the right touches of both whimsy and the Gothic macabre You'll enjoy this follow up to the original "Frankenstein" Super or Regular 8 Black and White Order yours! #2228 $9 95

THE MUMMY'S TOMB

We are not in Transylvania but rather in the mystified land of Egypt Here is where the bandaged ghoul hangs out Dead and buried for who knows how long? But is the Mummy actually dead or is he in fact breathing through those bandages? Come a bit closer and see for yourself! B&W in Super and regular 8mm #2229 $9 95

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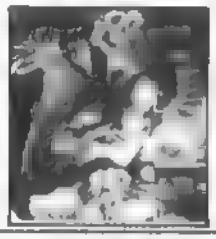
Are you ready for this one? It's all new and all too frightening! The most horrifying "Frankenstein" movie ever filmed! See the most fiendish monster ever conceived! You can view this film in the privacy of your own home and scream to your heart's content Super and regular 8 film in Black and White Order #2234 $9 95

DR. X



This daring movie was one of the most elusive of all the major horror films of the early 1930's With its great visual style, this film stresses shadowy effects, sharp and angular images Don't end up in this weird Dr's laboratory You might never get out! Be sure to order Super or regular 8 film Black & White #2272 $9 95

MONSTER THAT CHALLENGED THE WORLD

Would you believe a giant mollusk of vaguely lobster like appearance? Having been at the bottom of the sea for billions of years he finally surfaces for a breather and some food None other than human blood! Then it's the U S Navy to the rescue! Have you any doubt of the outcome? A Black & White Film Super & reg 8 #2274 $9 95

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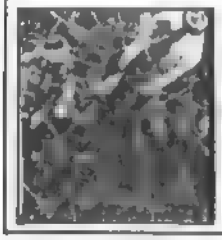

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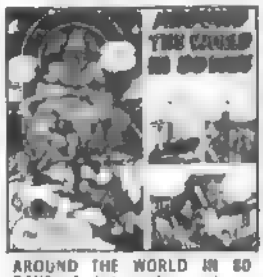

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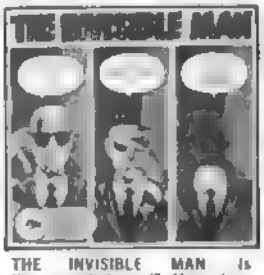

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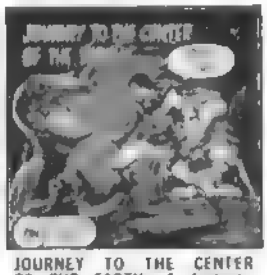

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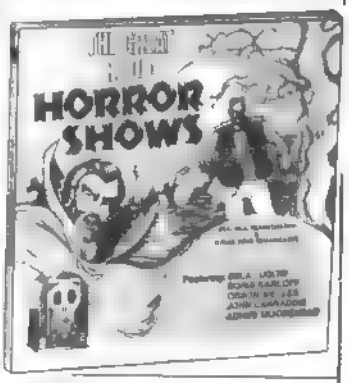

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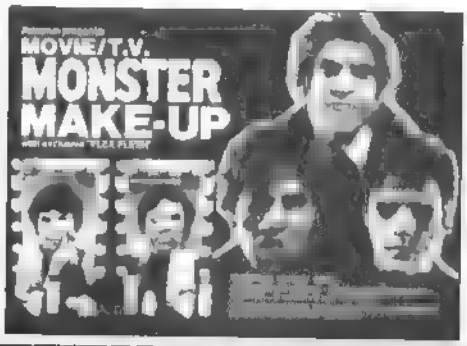

Now you can transform yourself into such famous movie and TV monsters as the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Frankenstein, Mr Hyde or devise your own thing! This kit was created by Dick Smith who did the make-up for The Exorcist and The Godfather! It contains the amazingly realistic Flex Flesh with molds coloring, adhesive teeth hair, blood and an illustrated manual! #26009 MONSTER MAKE UP $19.95

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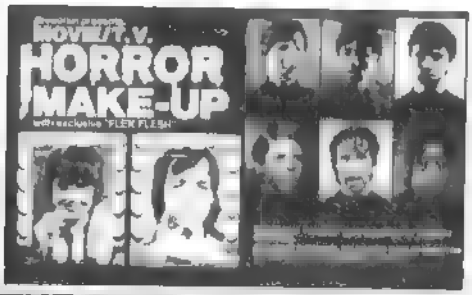

If you want to film a home-made horror flick or just terrify your friends then here is the kit for it! Created by Dick (Godfather Exorcist) Smith, this make up package contains Flex Flesh which when mixed with water hardens into molds noses eyes, ears lips cheeks of burnt scarred or decaying flesh. Buy it today! #26008 HORROR MAKE-UP $13.95

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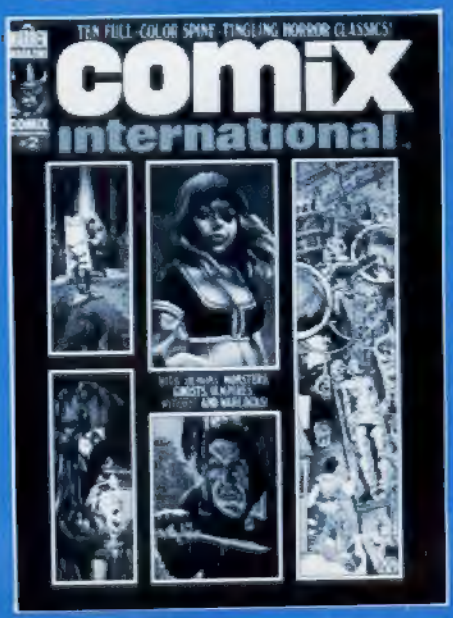

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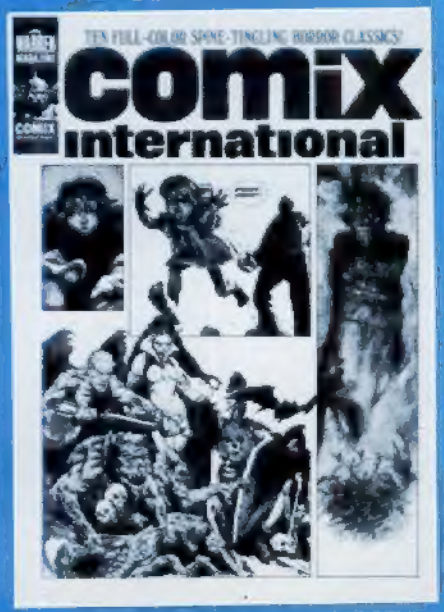

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